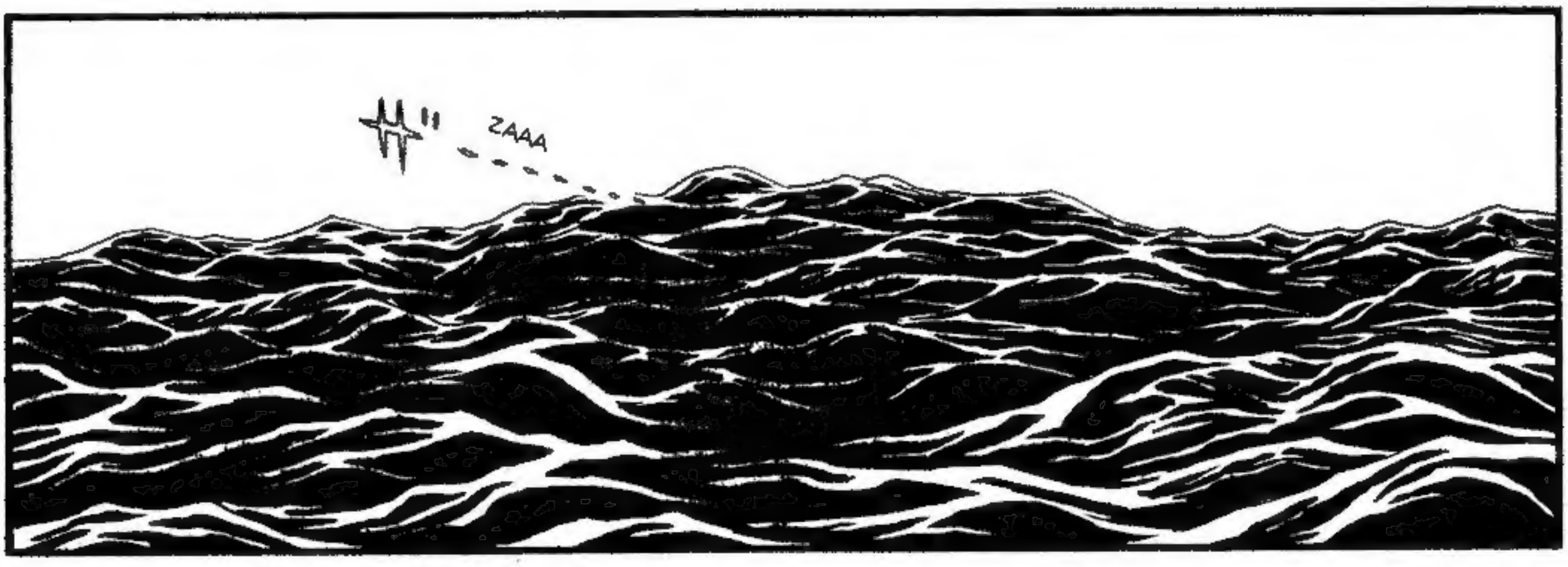
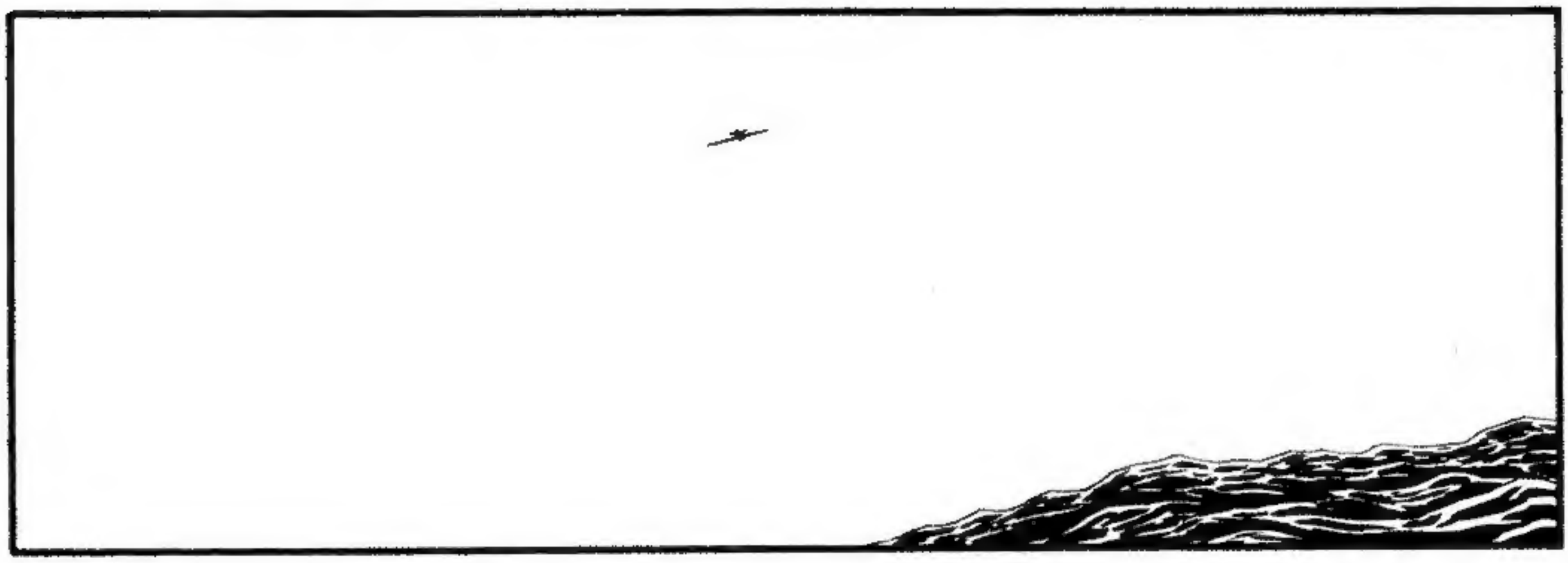
サイボーグ CYBORG 009

4

Shotaro Ishinomori

CHAPTER 15
EMPTY WAR





NORS AIR LINES

VÓOOM

STRANGE. I'VE NEVER SEEN AIRCRAFT LIKE THAT BEFORE.

THEY'RE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR US!

VEEN

BOOM

ZU GA GA GA

BANG

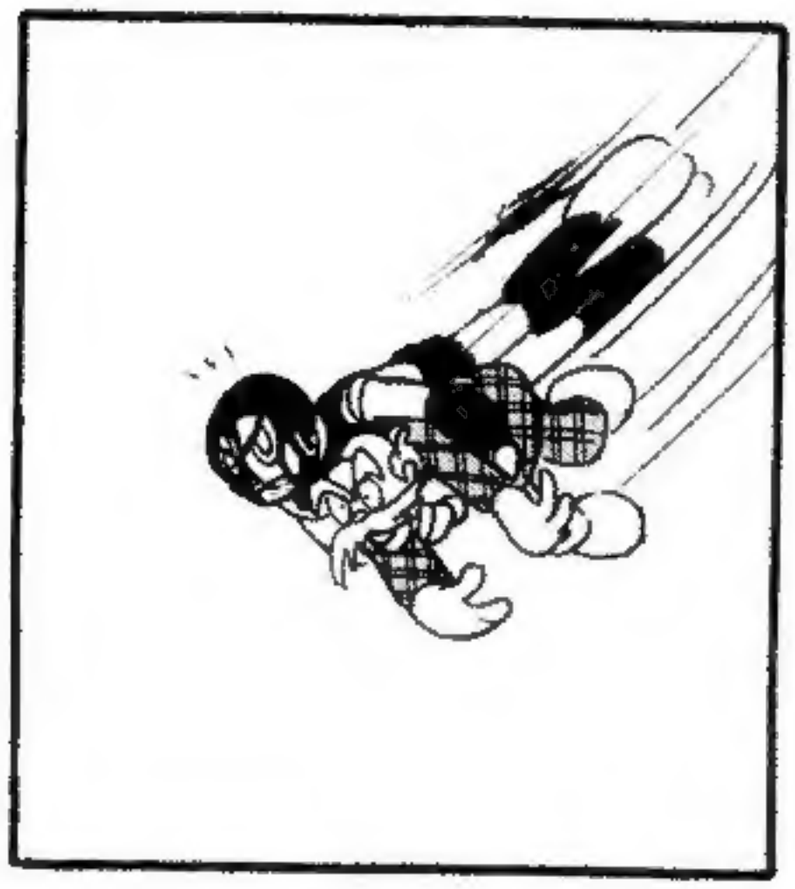
UWAH!

BLAZE

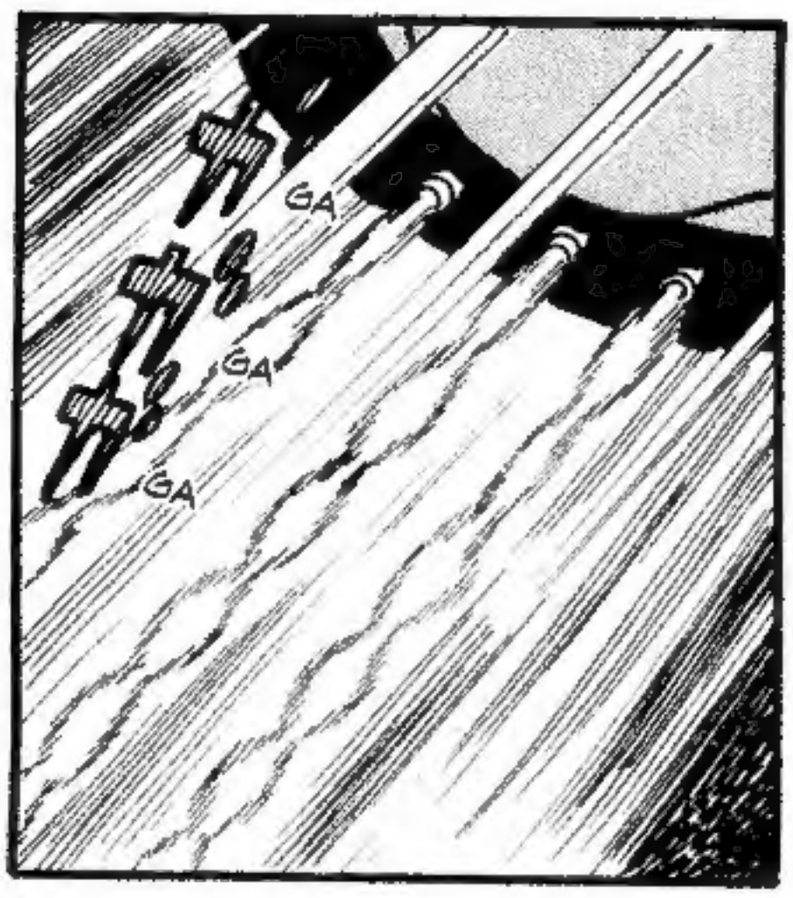
SHOOM

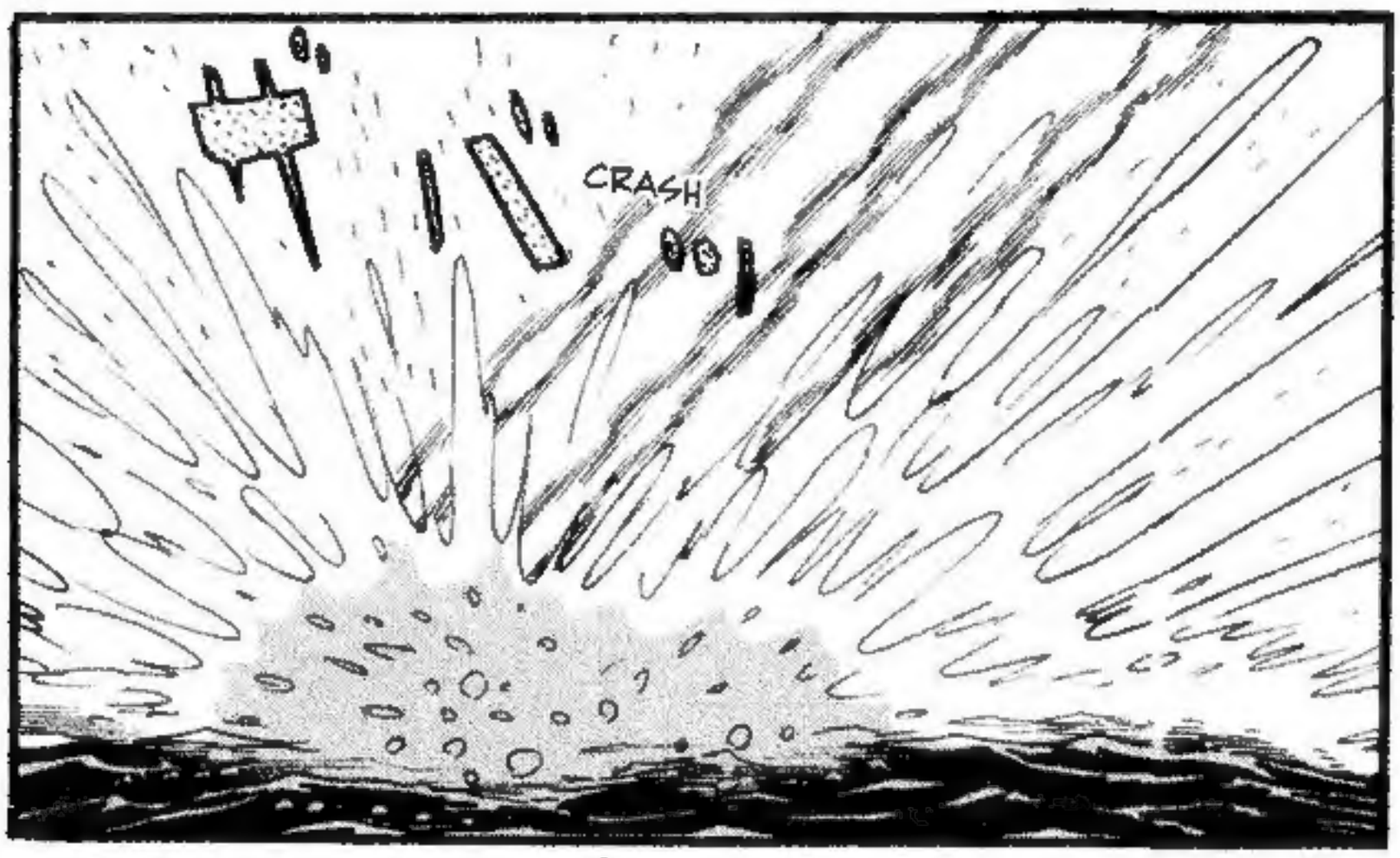
CRASH

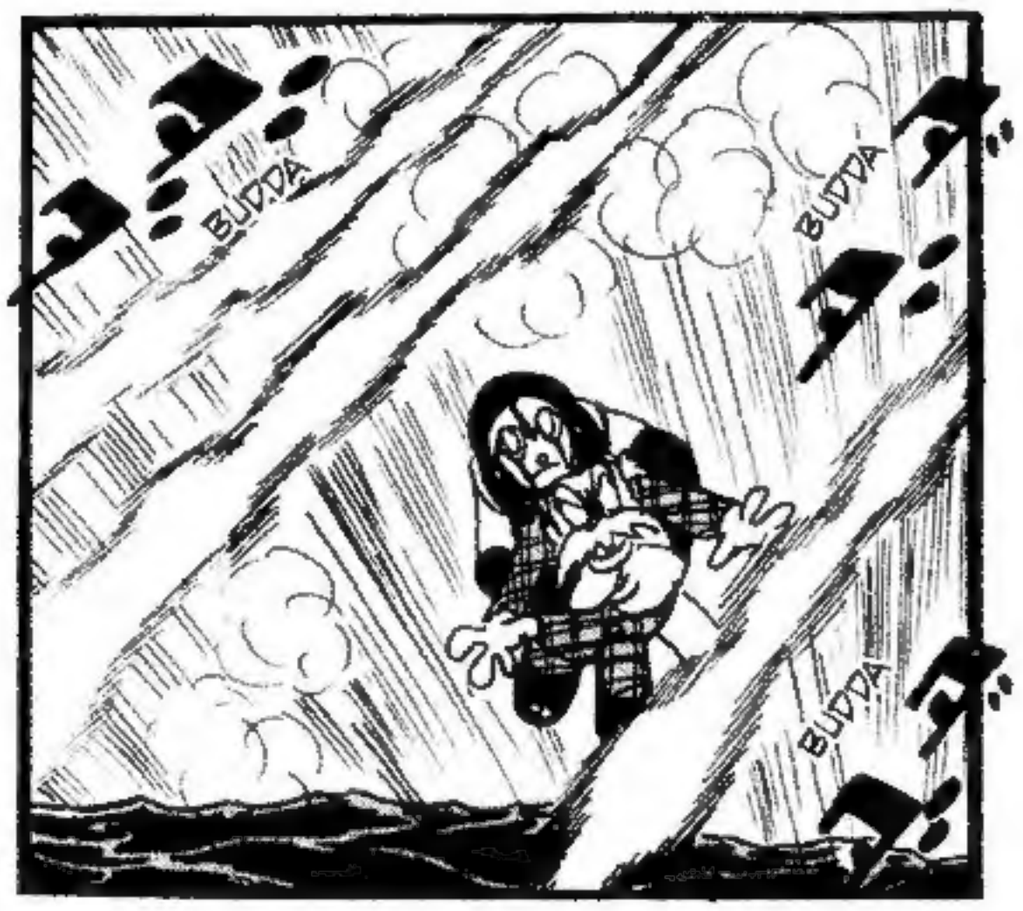
MISSION ACCOM-PLISHED!



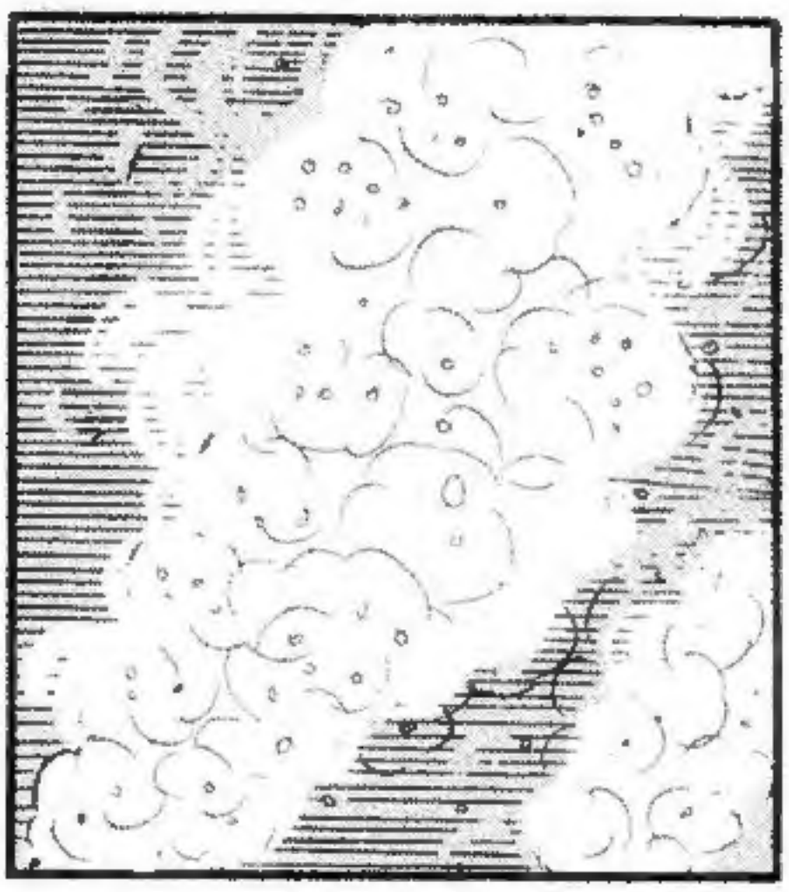
CRASH

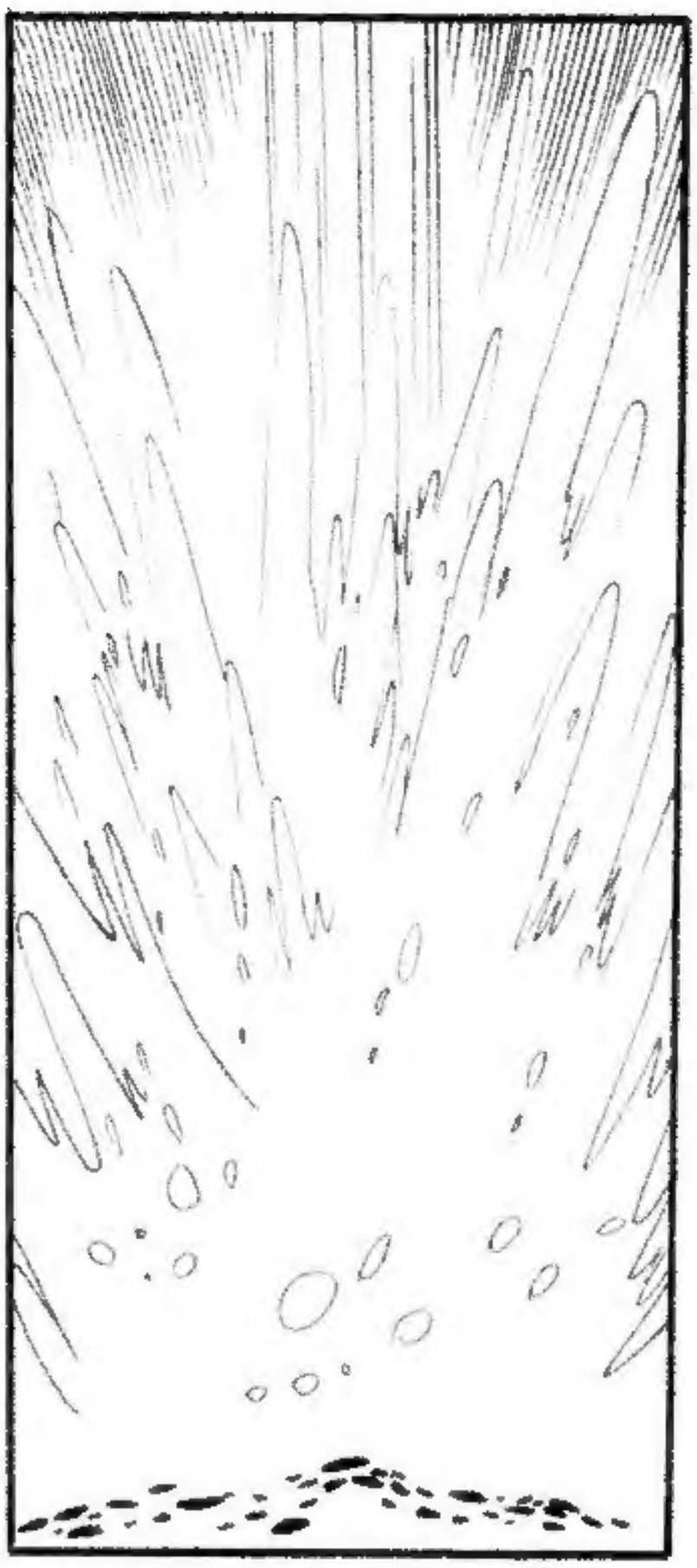

GA
GA
GA


CRASH

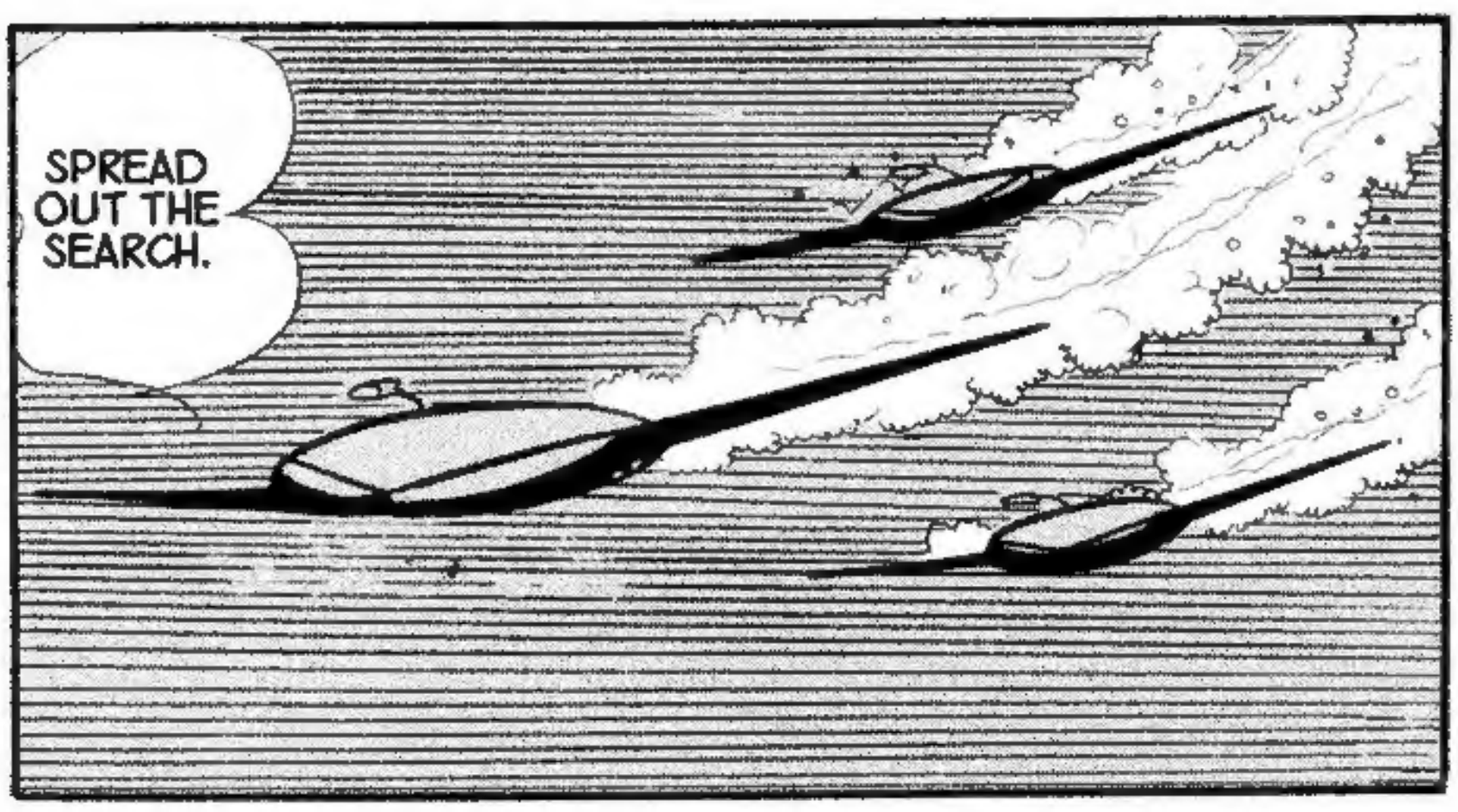

BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA

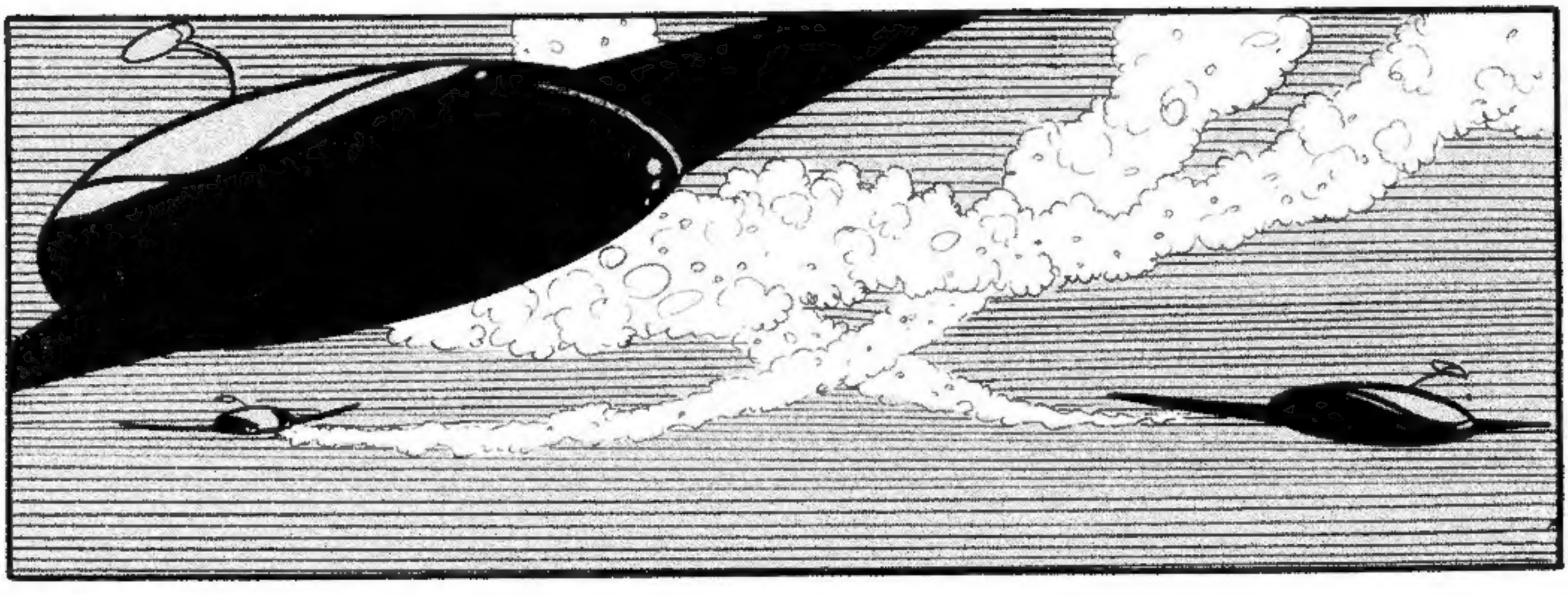
SPLASH





THEY ESCAPED INTO THE WATER.
WE'RE ON IT.


SPREAD OUT THE SEARCH.

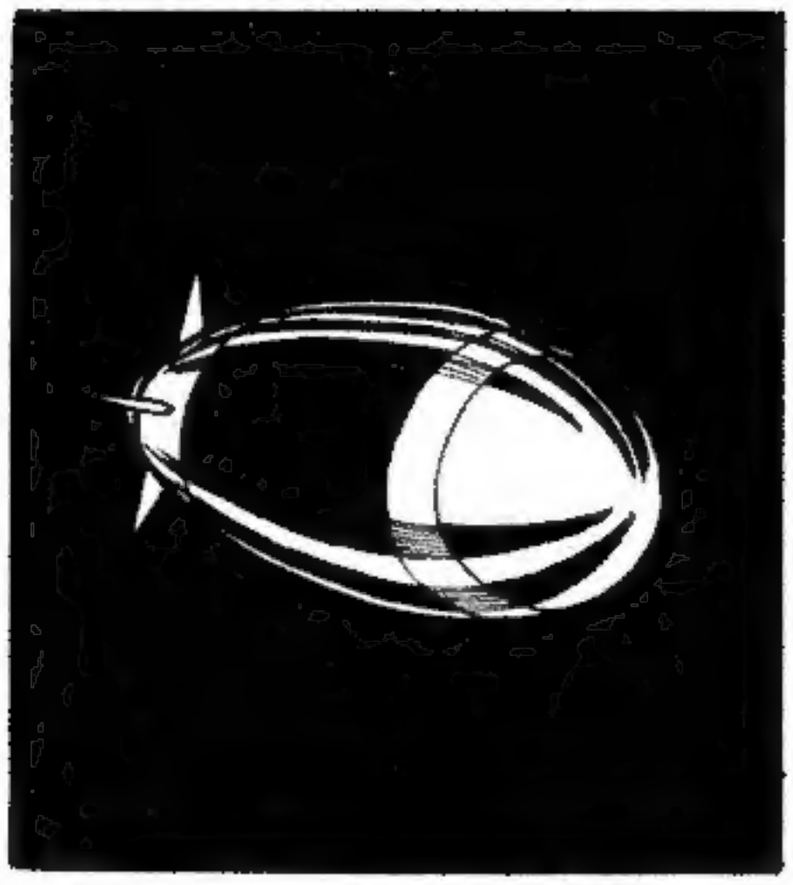


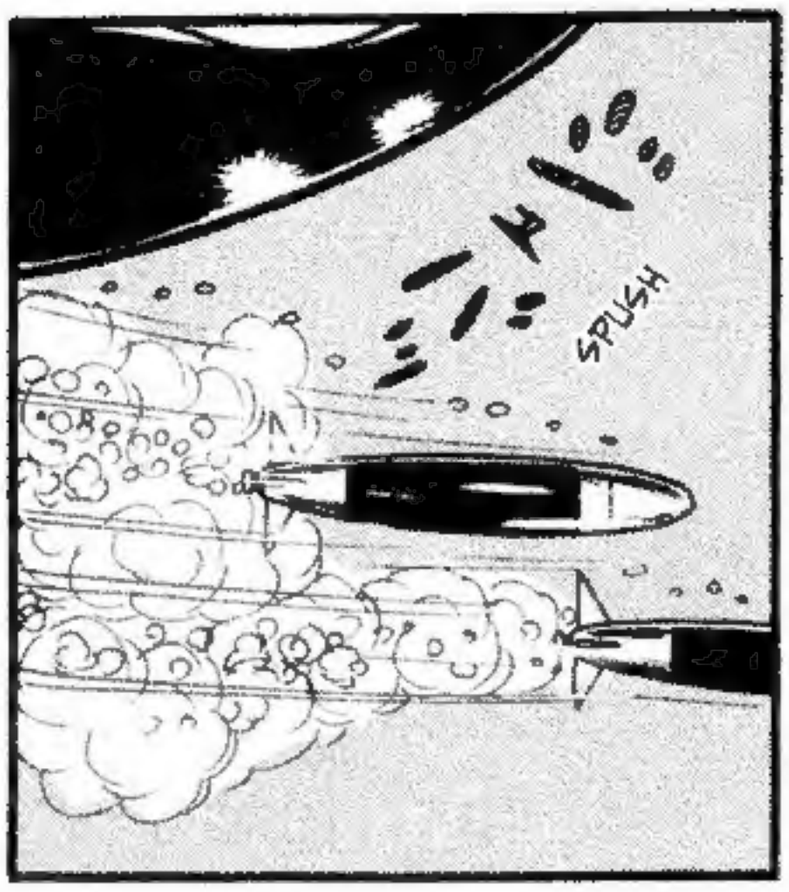
THERE'S TOO MUCH WRECKAGE. RADAR IS USELESS.

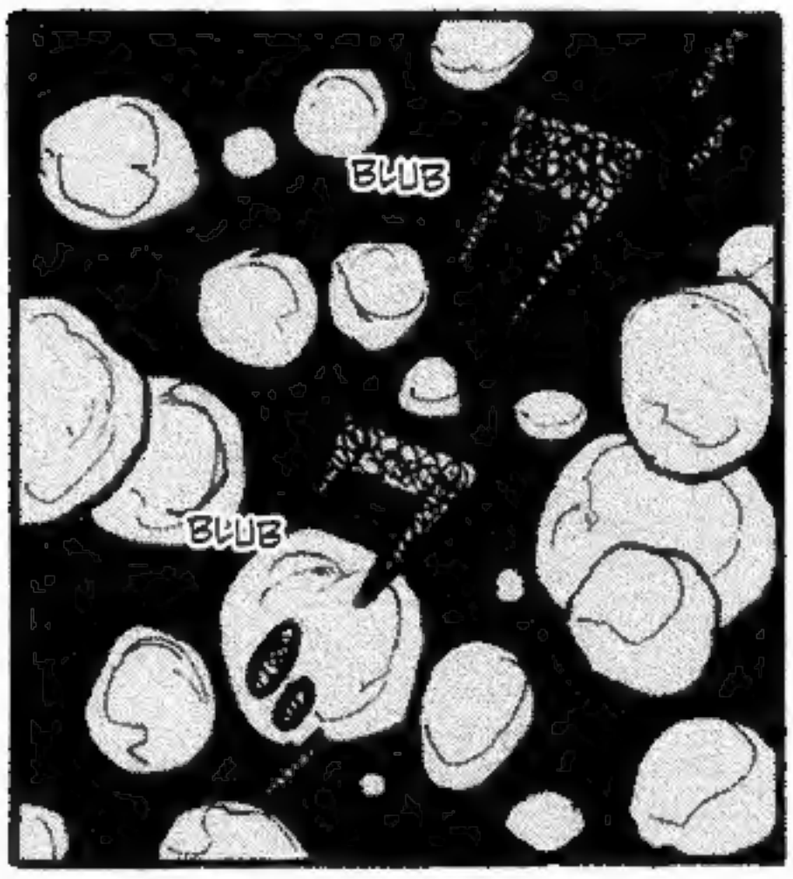
IT DOESN'T MATTER. JUST PEPPER THE AREA WITH BULLETS.

WAIT, THERE HE IS.

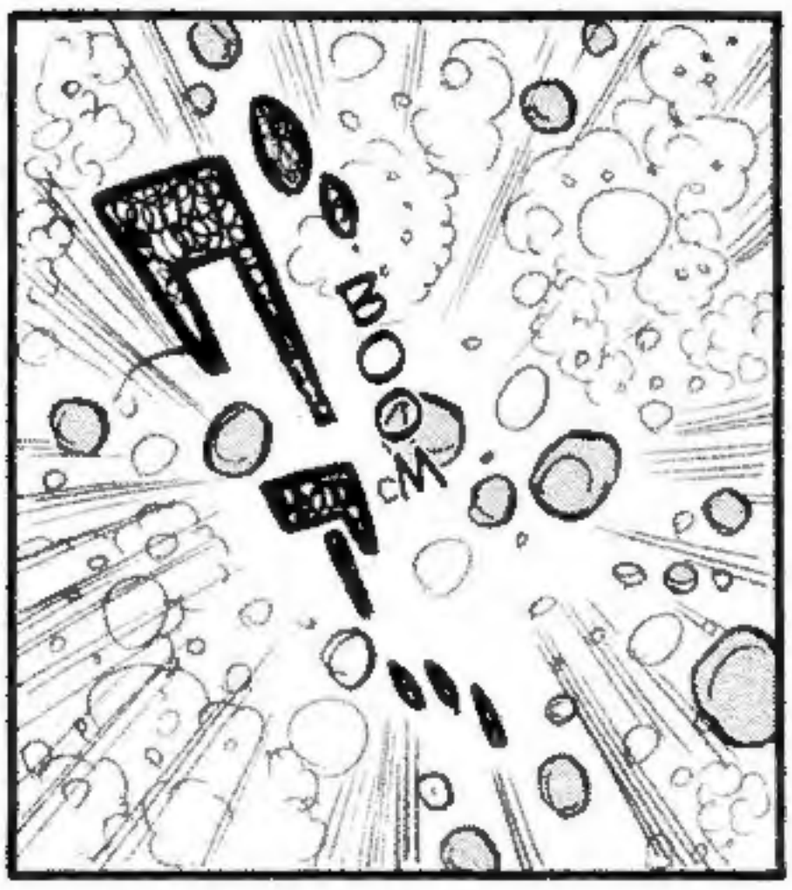
IT'S THE CYBORG!

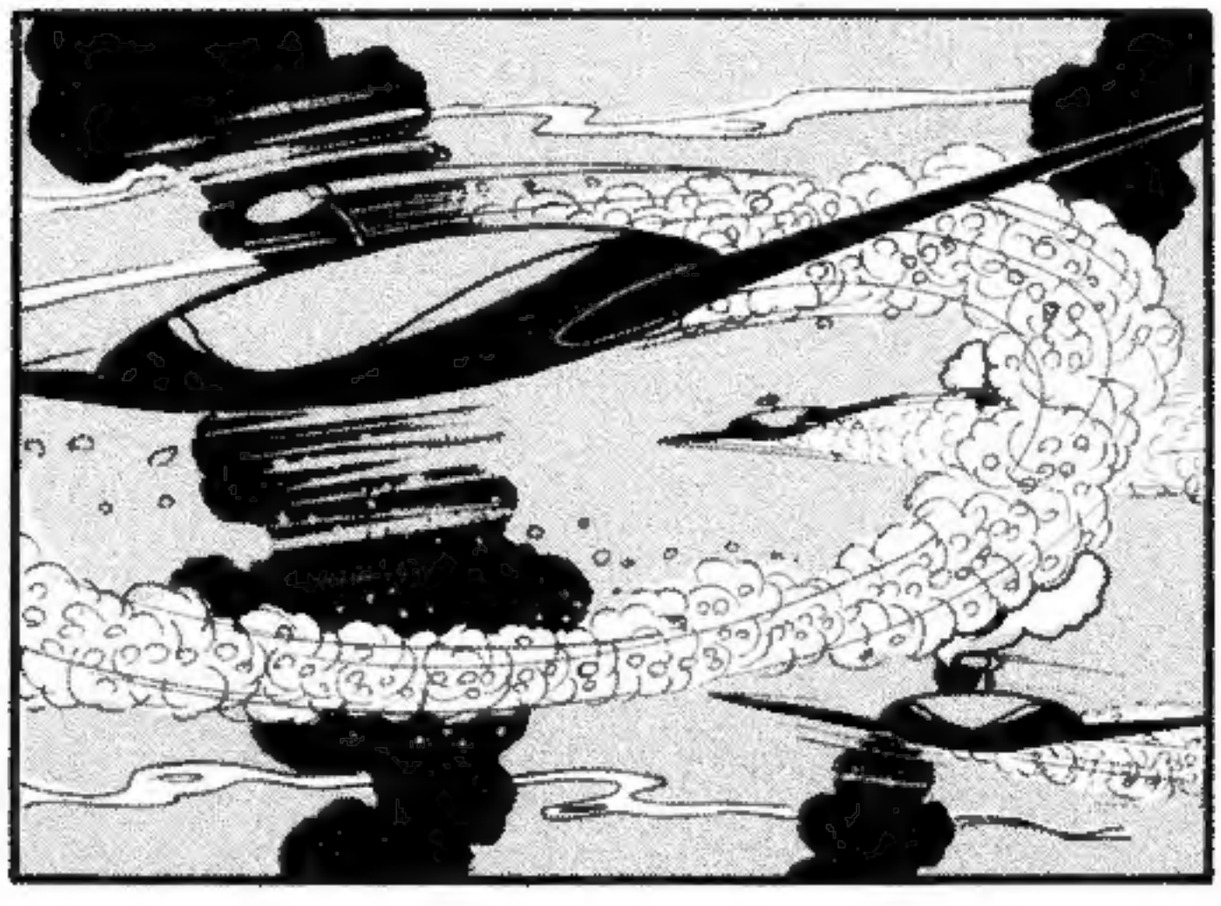



SPLUSH


BLUB
BLUB

BOOM


BOOM



WHAT?

VUUM

VUUM

BUMM

I THINK SO.

DID WE GET HIM?

RETREAT.

LAY LOW.

IT'S A SUB-MARINE!!

VUUM

VUUM

SPLASH

VEEN

VEEN

HUH?

KROK

UH...

DON'T MOVE!

WHAT'S THIS?!

HOLD ON. ONE QUESTION AT A TIME.

BE CAREFUL. IF HE'S ONE OF US, HE COULD EASILY BE READING OUR MINDS.

AND WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS DOWN 'ERE?

...OR ARE YOU JUST A ROBOT?

ARE YOU A CYBORG?

BLIMEY!

THEN HOW CAN YOU READ OUR MINDS?

ACTUALLY, NO. I'M 'JUST' A ROBOT!

WHA? HE'S A CYBORG!

...AND WHAT IF I AM?

EXPLOSION? OH NO! THE DOCTOR!!!

...DID YOU HEAR THE EXPLOSION?

SO, WAIT A MINUTE...

MY CEREBRAL SIGNAL IS TUNED TO THE SAME FREQUENCY AS YOUR BRAIN TRANSMISSIONS.

C'MON! LET'S FOLLOW HIM.

WHAT'S ALL THIS 'BOUT A DOCTOR?

SHUUM

HEY, WAIT! YA CAN'T JUST NIP OFF!

WHAT?

DOCTOR!! DOCTOR YAMAZAKI.

THANK GOODNESS YOU MADE IT! I NEARLY SUFFOCATED IN THERE.

UH... UH.

DOCTOR! YOU'RE SAFE!

WHAT? I'M NOT A SEA MONSTER!

YIKES! A SEA MON-STER!

ARE YOU SERI-OUS?

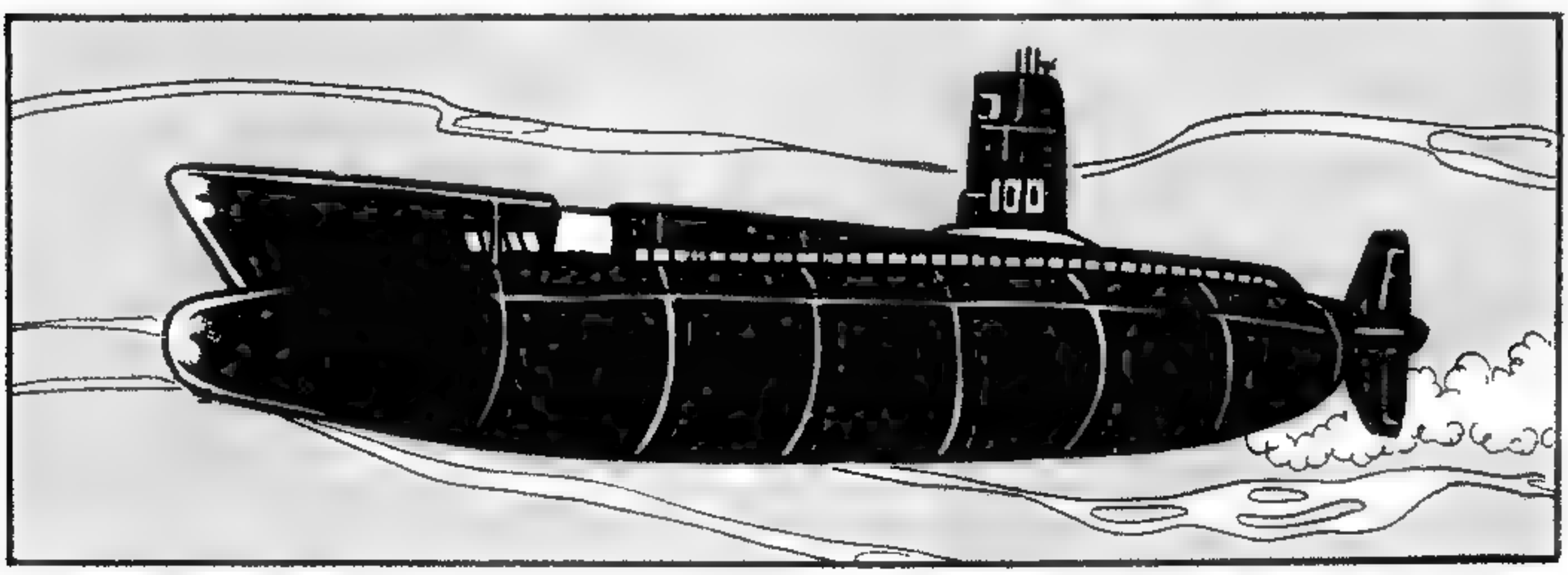
I CAME TO JAPAN TO FIND YOU!

I KNEW IT! THANK GOODNESS!

YOU'RE ONE OF THE CYBORGS. THE ZERO ZERO SERIES.

HOLD ON! I KNOW YOU!

YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT US?



YOU DON'T SAY!

I WORKED FOR BLACK GHOST...IN THEIR ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

IT'S TRUE.

AND THEY CLAIM THAT IT HAS THE ABILITY TO SHOWER DOWN MISSILES ON ANY CORNER OF THE GLOBE.

EXACTLY!

A SATELLITE MISSILE BASE?

WHAT?!

KA

BOOM

THEY JUST COMPLETED PLANS FOR THEIR NEWEST WEAPON... A SATELLITE MISSILE BASE!!

THEY'RE A RIGHT BUNCH OF BLOODY VILLAINS!!

HMM.

THE BLACK GHOST WANTS THE WORLD TO COWER AT ITS FEET!!

THEN WE MADE OUR ESCAPE.

...I STARTED WORK ON MY OWN ROBOT, ANDROID JØ, AND DECIDED TO FOLLOW YOUR LEAD.

DR. GILMORE, AS SOON AS I HEARD ABOUT YOU AND THE DESERTION OF YOUR NINE CYBORGS...

...BUT IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN JØ AND MYSELF TO STOP THEM.

WE CAN'T LET THEM ORBIT THAT MISSILE BASE...

THEY WERE ONTO US FROM THE MOMENT WE TOOK OFF.

HOWEVER, I WASN'T AS LUCKY AS YOU.

I'M SICK OF...

I'M SICK OF RUNNING!

WITH YOUR HELP I KNOW WE COULD PUT AN END TO THE BLACK GHOST'S REIGN OF TERROR.

I RISKED EVERYTHING TO COME HERE AND FIND YOU!

CAN WE CONSIDER OURSELVES PARTNERS?

DOCTOR, WE WEREN'T EXACTLY 'LUCKY' EITHER. THEY FOLLOWED US AS WELL.

WE'LL MAKE 'EM PAY FOR THE WHOLE BLEEDING LOT!!

DAMMIT!

...OF ALL THE DEATH... OF ALL THE DESTRUC-TION. AND YET, I FEEL...

...THAT I AM PART OF THE CAUSE.

I KNOW A PLACE, STRANGE ROCK ISLAND...

WHERE IS THAT?

STRANGE ROCK ISLAND?

BRILLIANT! WHERE IS IT?

I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE IT OUT BEFORE THE BLACK GHOST CAUSES EVEN MORE DESTRUCTION.

BUT RIGHT NOW, THERE IS A MISSILE BASE TO DEAL WITH.

RIGHT-O.

LET ME SEE A MAP.

STRANGE ROCK ISLAND... SEEMS LIKE I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE.

WAIT, HOLD ON.

I WISH I KNEW.

.....

IT'S A TOP SECRET LOCATION. HOWEVER, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO REMEMBER IF I LOOK HARD ENOUGH.

OF COURSE NOT.

WOULD IT EVEN BE ON THE MAP?

Arctic Ocean

Atlantic Ocean

Pacific Ocean

AH, IT'S NO USE! I CAN'T REMEMBER!!

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT COMPANY. RECON-NAISSANCE DOLPHINS!

YEAH?

HEY 009!

ROGER.

HOWEVER, IT ONLY TAKES ONE TO REPORT OUR POSITION!

I ONLY COUNT THREE OF THEM, BUT THEY'RE A STEALTHY BUNCH.

HOW MANY ARE THERE?

DO YOU THINK THEY SAW US?

THERE THEY ARE!

PSHH

WE CAN'T LET BLACK GHOST FIND US!

DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!

WHY?

JUST CATCH THEM!

WAIT, 008! DON'T KILL THEM!

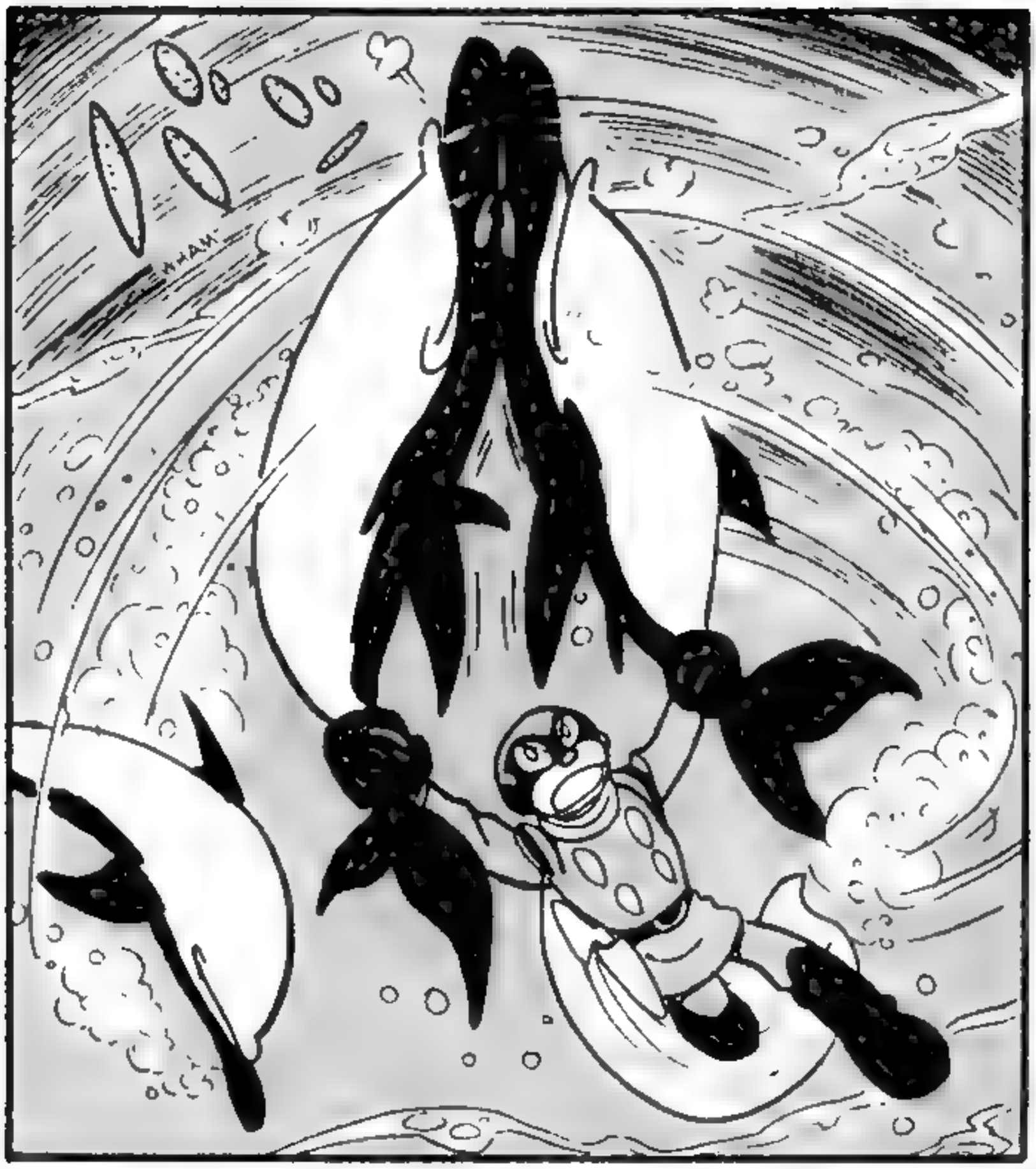
SHUU

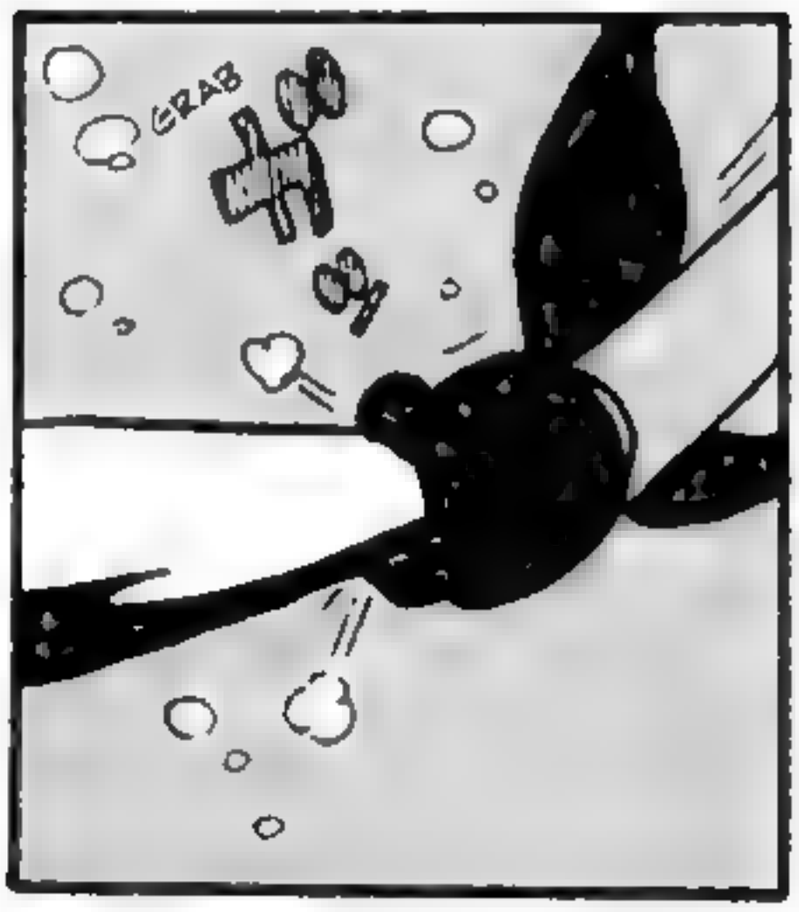
THEY'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

AH! JOE, NOW YOU'RE THINKIN'!

...THOSE DOLPHINS KNOW HOW TO GET TO STRANGE ROCK ISLAND.

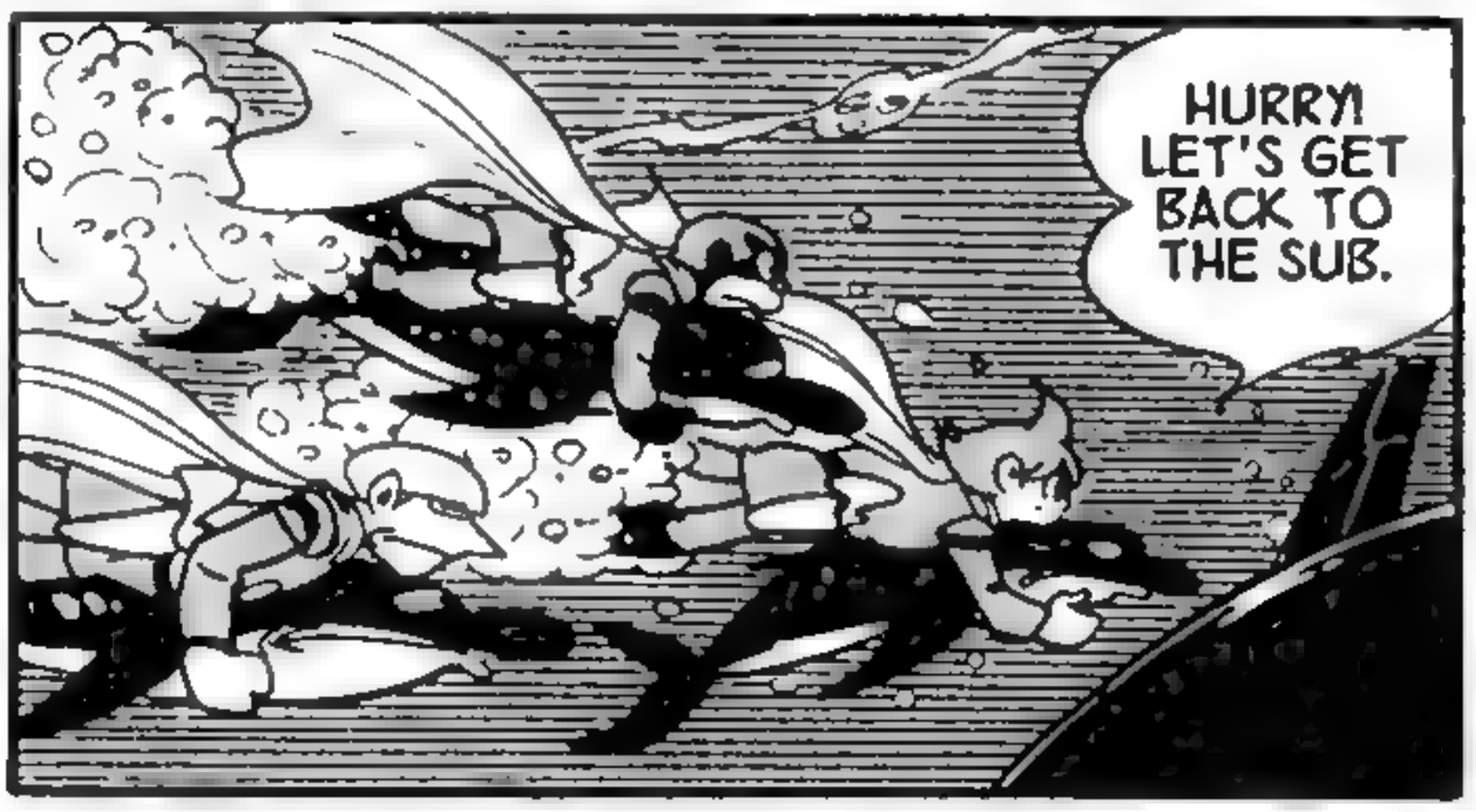
I'LL BET YOU ANY-THING...


AHAM

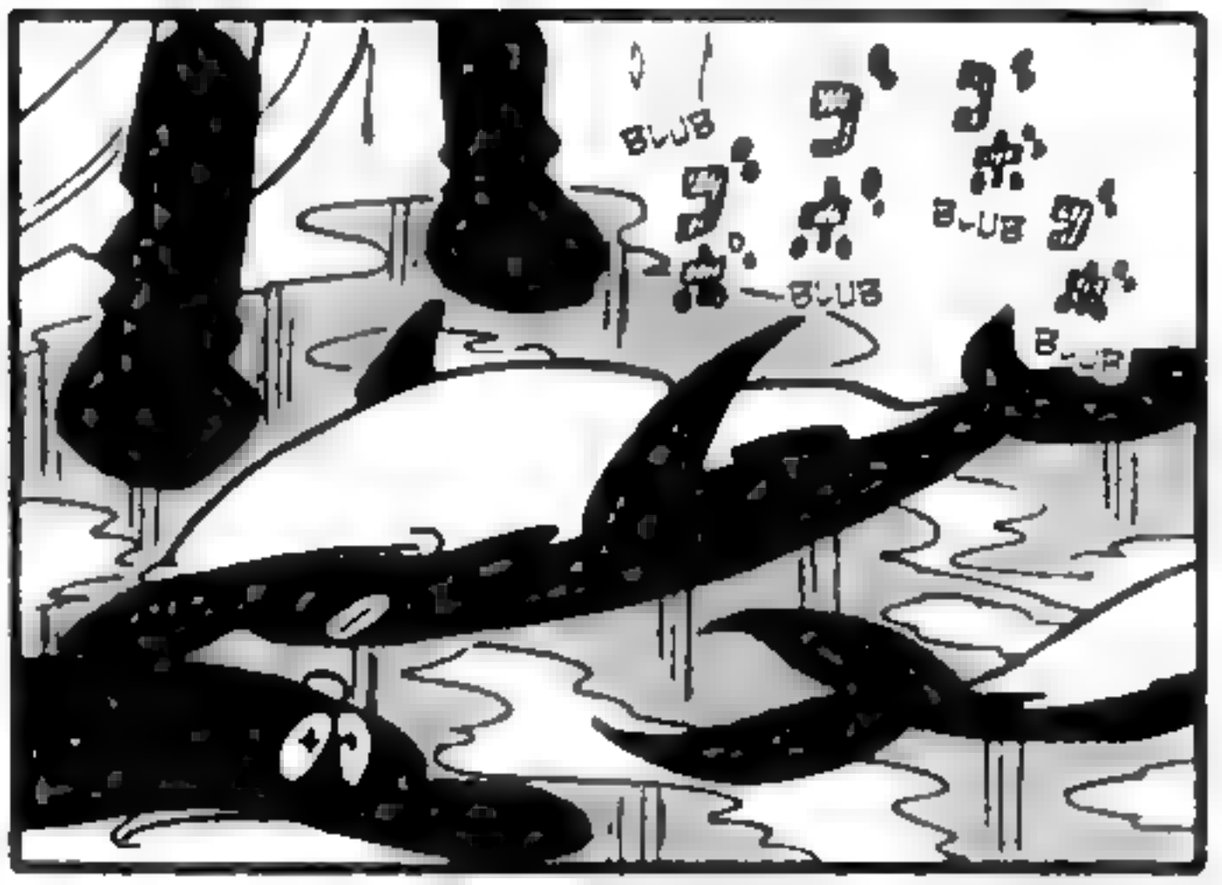

GRAB

WHAP

KLANK


HURRY! LET'S GET BACK TO THE SUB.

THEY'RE BOUND TO UNDER-STAND.
WELL, CAN'T WE JUST ASK THEM?
OKAY, GUYS. WHAT NOW?


BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB

HELLO, DOLPHINS. CAN YOU HEAR ME?

HMMM, IT'S WORTH A SHOT.

WE'VE SEEN THEM COMMUNICATE THROUGH TELEPATHY.

PAT

THIS ONE SEEMS TO BE REGAINING CONSCIOUS.

EASY, 008.

I'VE GOT SOMETHING THAT'LL WAKE THEM UP!

YEAH? WELL, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY AGAIN AFTER THEY WAKE UP.

IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING.

ST-STRANGE ROCK ISLAND?

WHERE IS STRANGE ROCK ISLAND?

FINE, WE'LL PUT YOU IN WATER BUT ONLY AFTER YOU ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS.

WATER... I NEED... WATER...

YOU'LL NEVER SEE ANOTHER DROP IF YOU DON'T TELL US.

W-WATER... WATER...

I THINK HE'S HOLDING OUT.

THEN HE KNOWS OF IT.

IS HE THINK-ING?

HE'S NOT TALKING.

.....

I'LL TELL YOU WHERE IT IS!

AL-RIGHT! AL-RIGHT!

HMPH, THAT'S TOO BAD. GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO WITHER UP AND DIE.

I DON'T KNOW... I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT!

FULL POWER FORWARD!!

TURN STAR-BOARD!

VUUN

VUUN

VUUN

SWITCH TO AUTO PILOT!

VUUN

VUUN

THIS IS HOW IT FEELS TO BE A PRISONER OF WAR.

SEE? ISN'T LIFE SO MUCH MORE COMFY WHEN YOU COOPERATE?

RIGHT HERE!

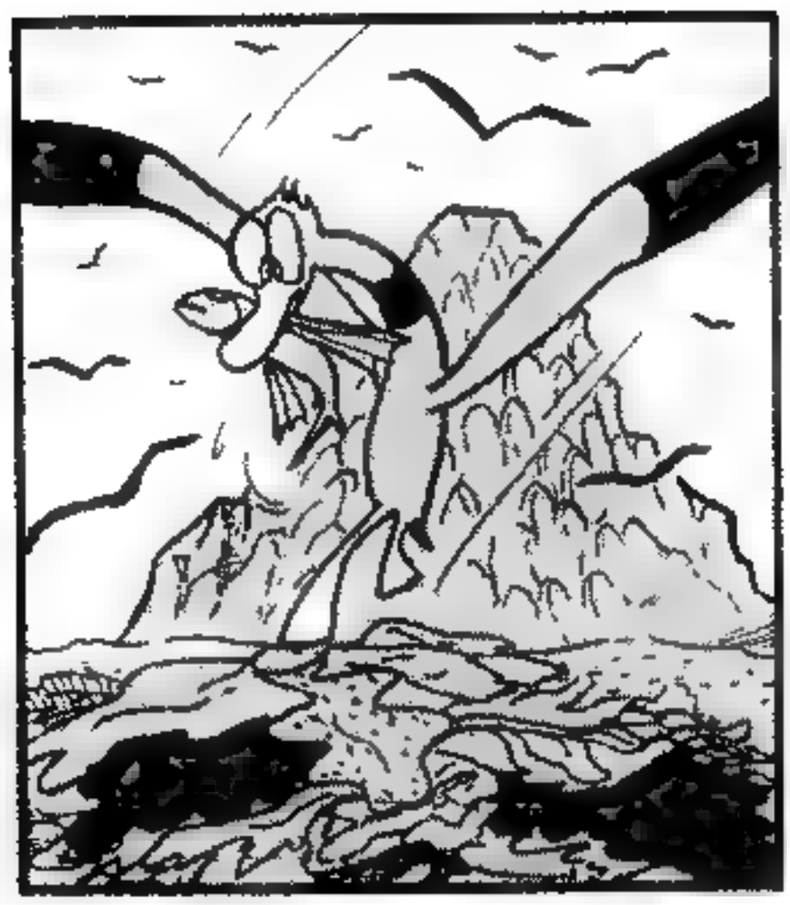
GIVE THEM TIME. THEY'LL PROBABLY WANT TO LEAVE BLACK GHOST SOON ENOUGH.

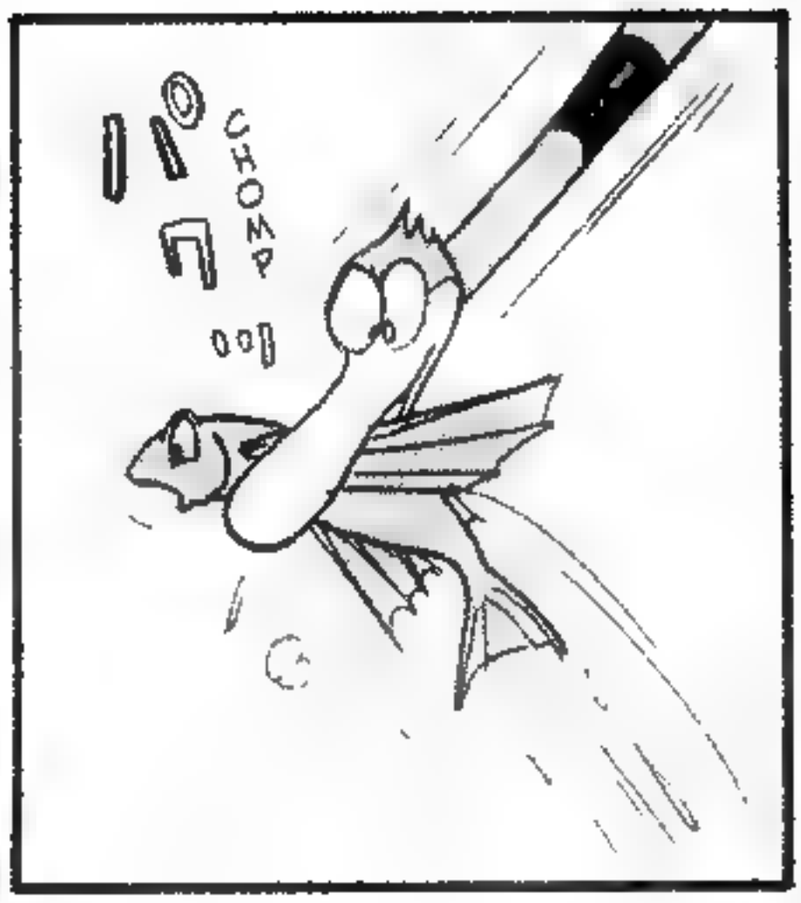
HMMPH. I BET WE COULD PUMP THEM FOR ALL SORTS OF INFOR-MATION.

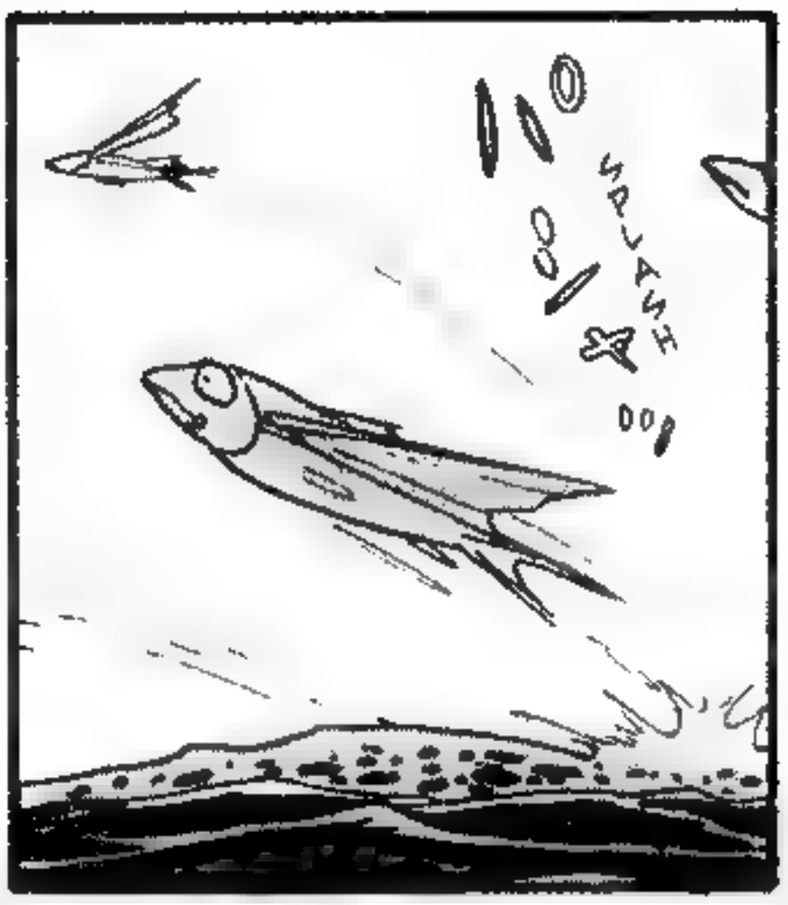
YEAH, WE'VE FOUND THE ISLAND...

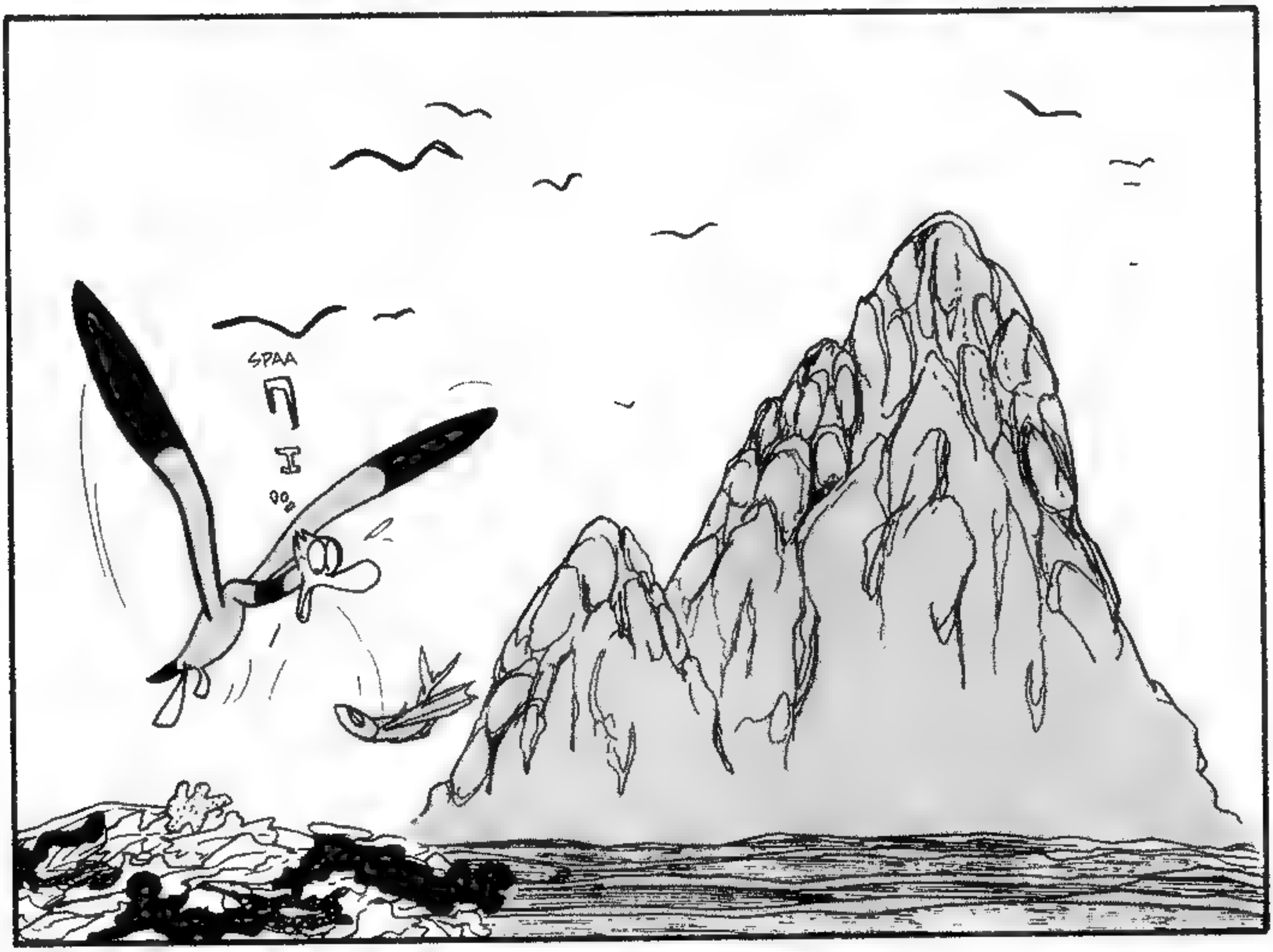
...BUT ACCORDING TO THOSE DOLPHINS, SECURITY IS TIGHT.

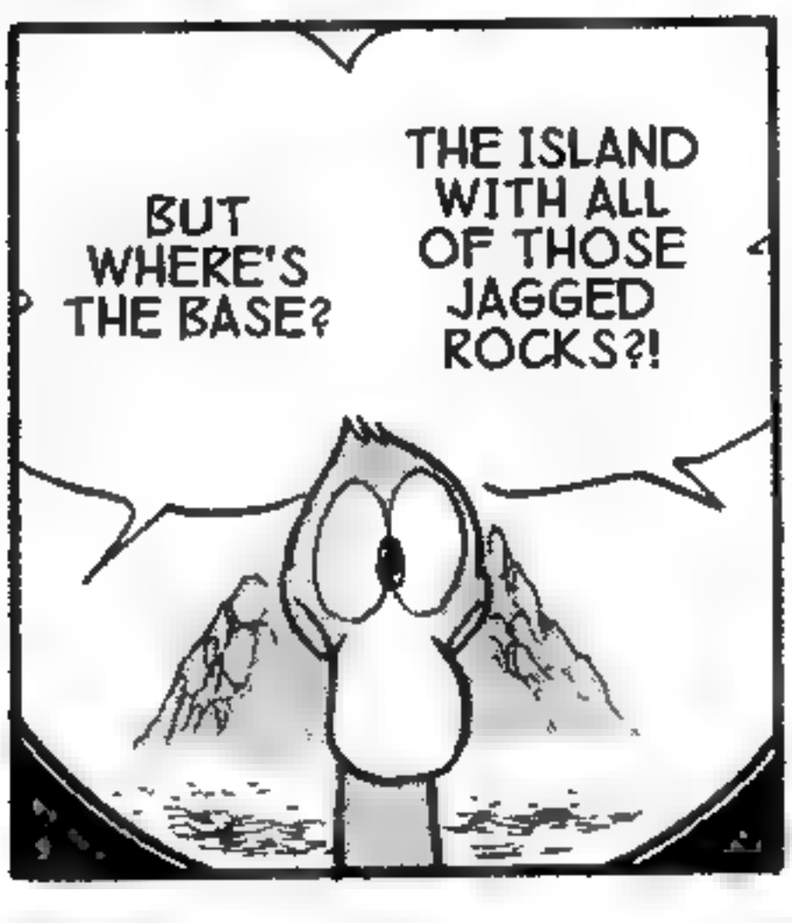
WE HAVE NO OTHER OPTIONS.



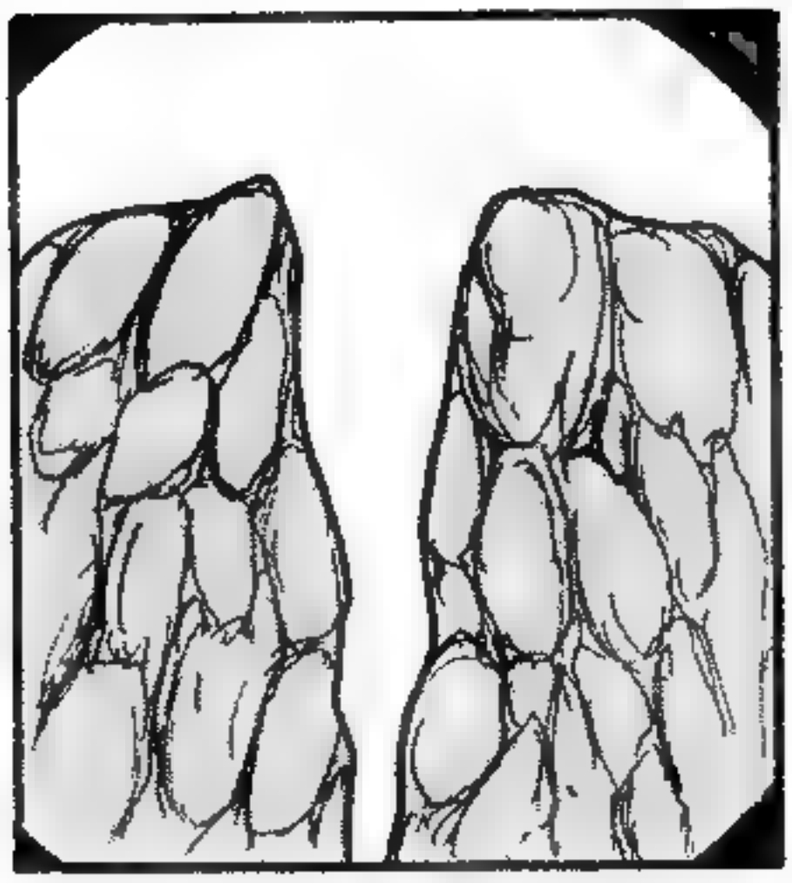

CHOMP

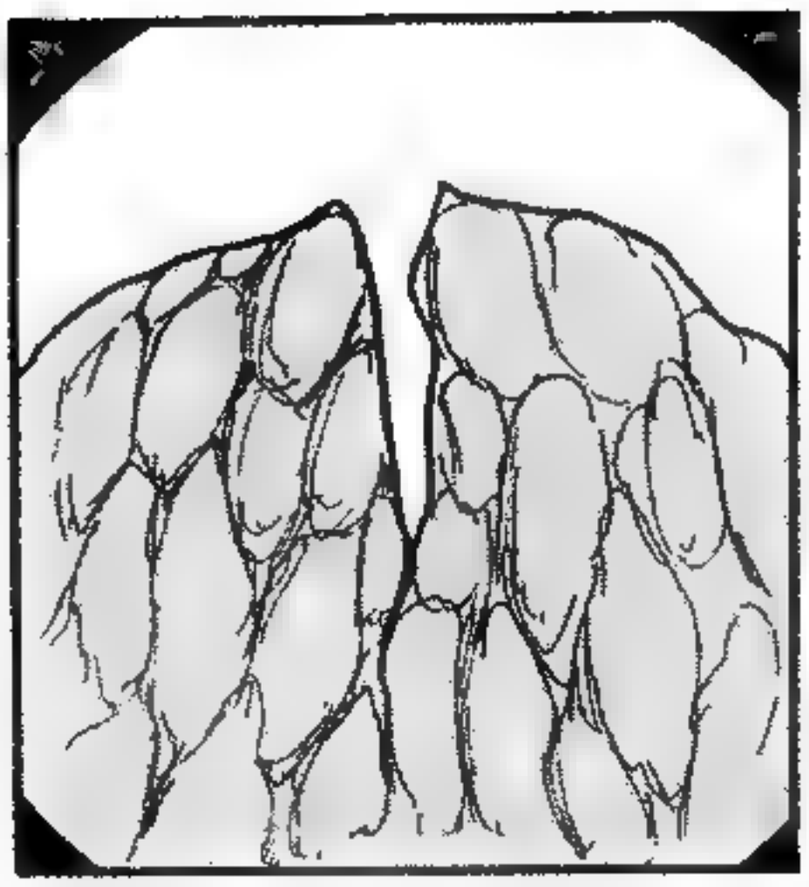

SNAP

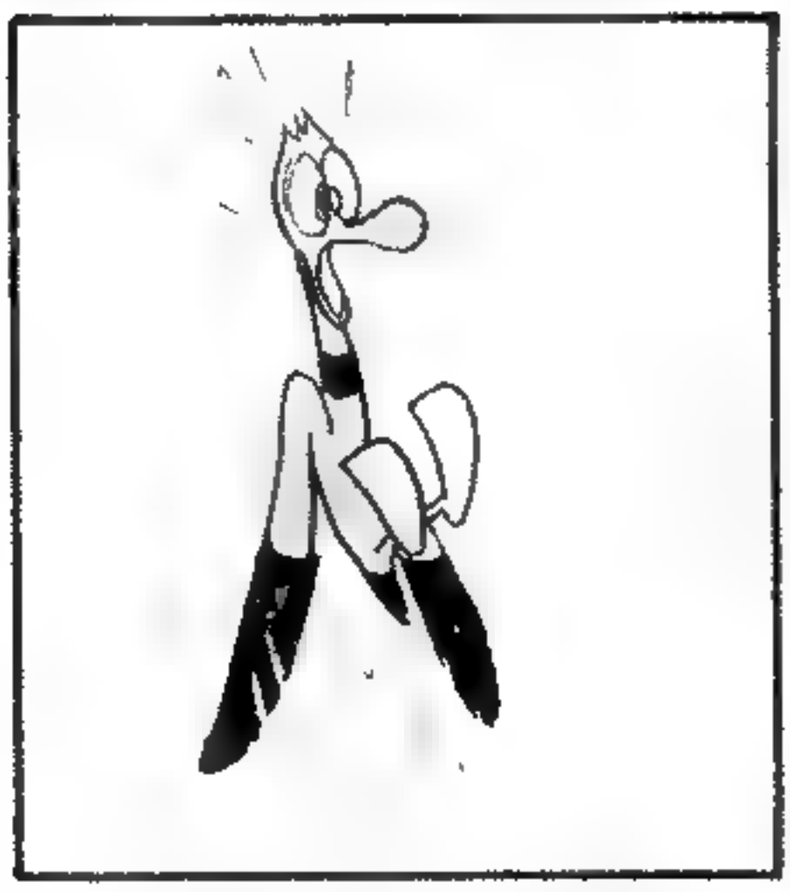

SPAA


BUT WHERE'S THE BASE?
THE ISLAND WITH ALL OF THOSE JAGGED ROCKS?!

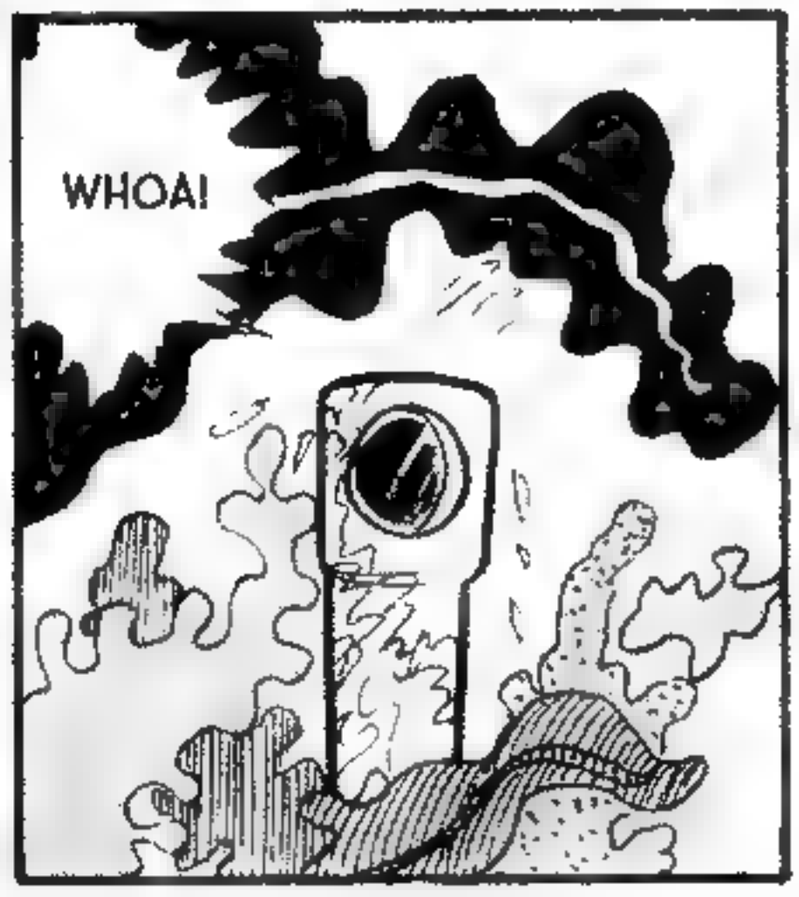
IT MUST BE THAT ISLAND!

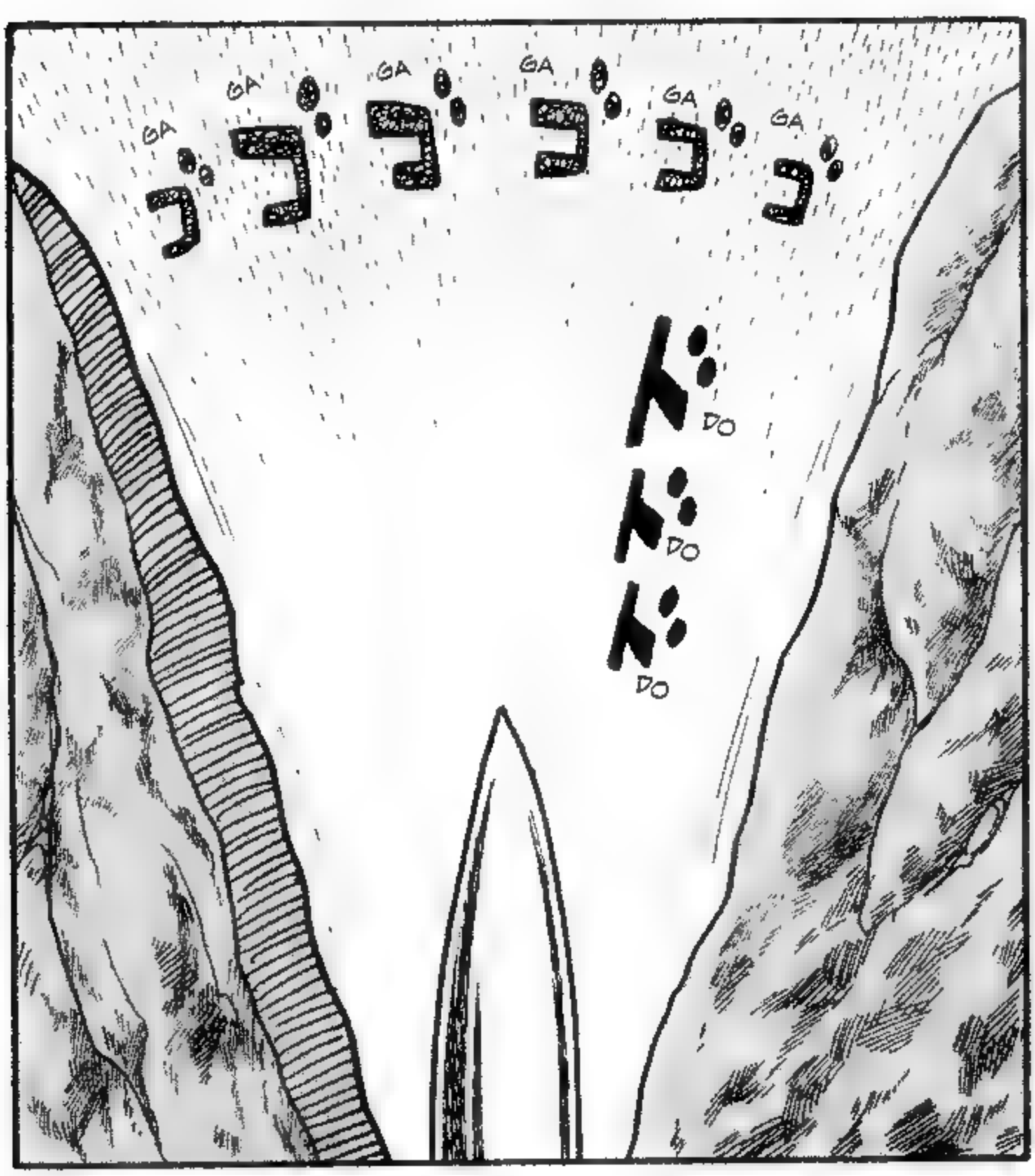


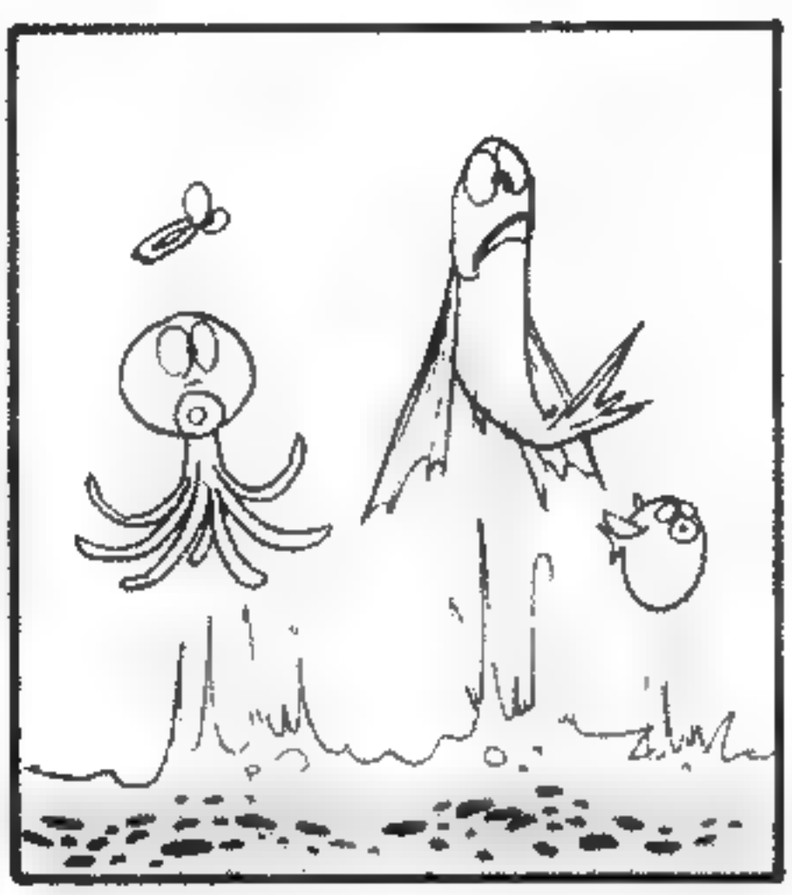


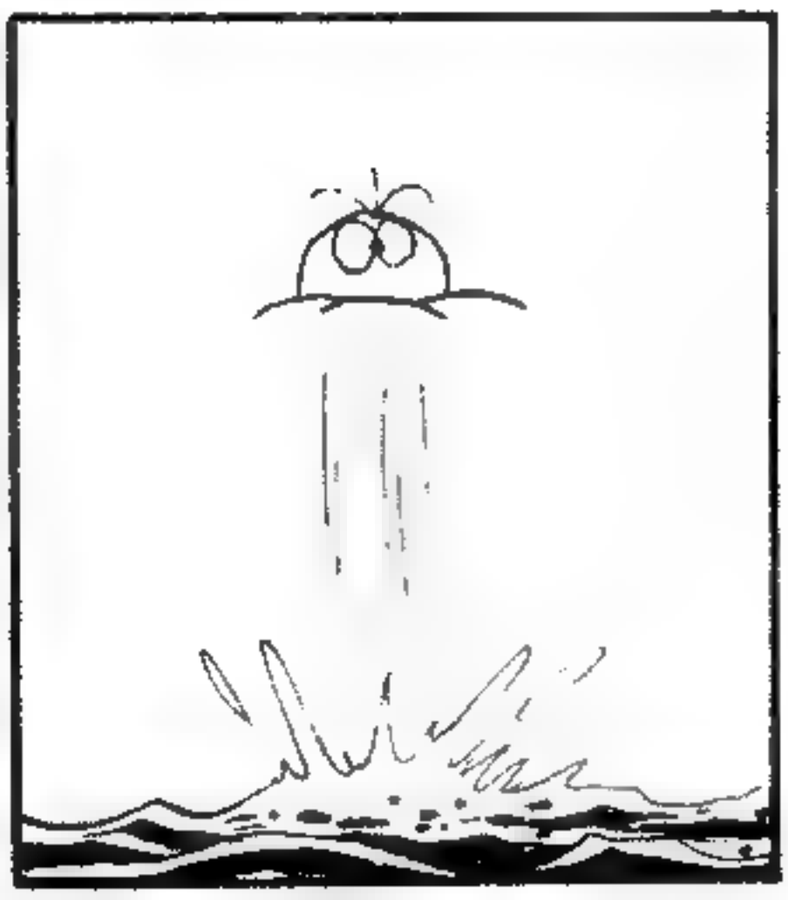


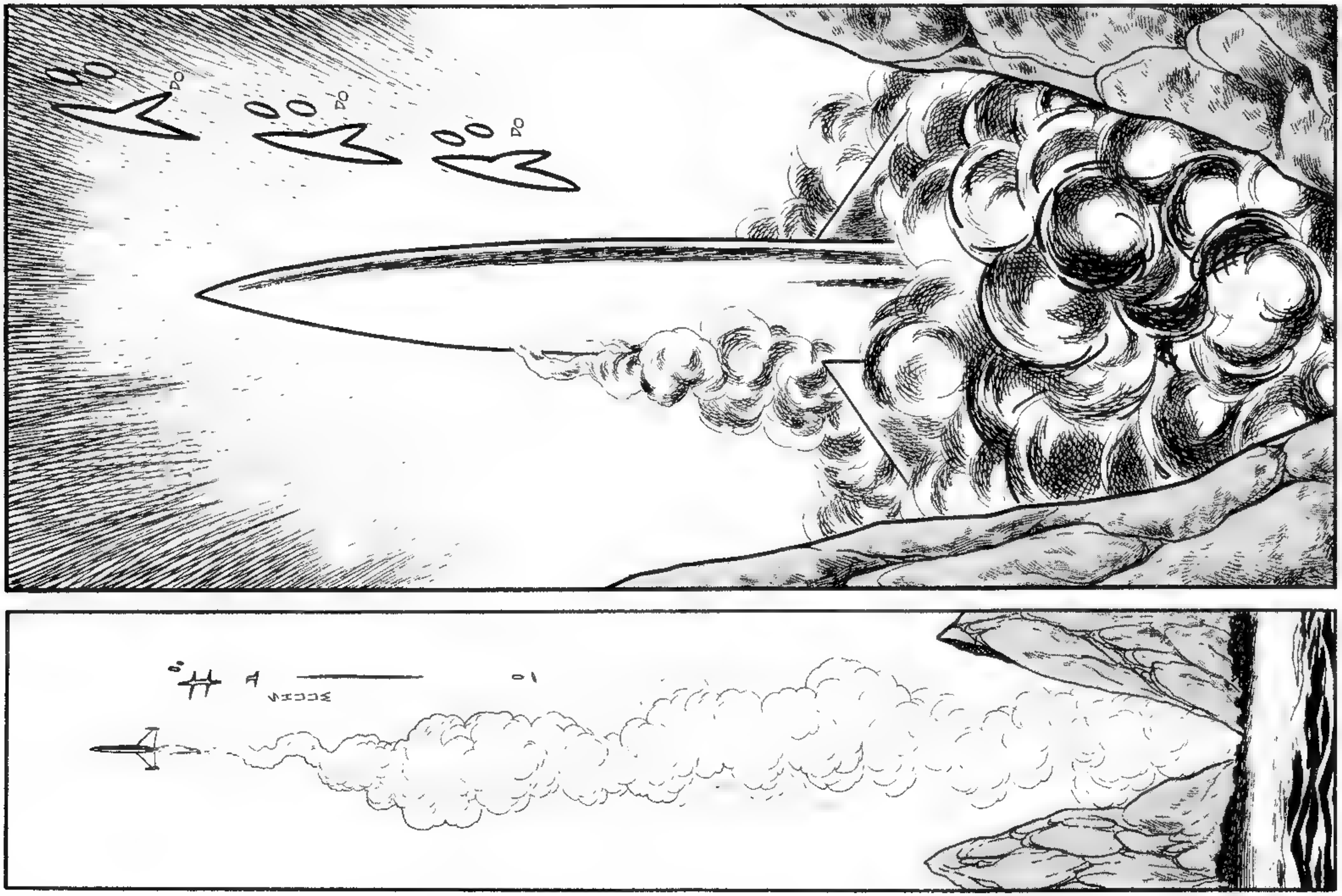
IT'S INSIDE THE ISLAND!!


WHOA!


GA
GA
GA
GA
GA
GA
DO
DO
DO






DO
DO
DO
DO
ESCAPE

WE'RE TOO LATE!

THEY JUST LAUNCHED A ROCKET.

CRIKEY?

YEAH, BOYS. I'M PRETTY SURE THIS IS THE PLACE.

ゴゴゴ

GA GA GA

HOW DO YOU STOP A ROCKET?

WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO GRAB THAT ROCKET AND DRAG IT BACK TO EARTH!

WADDAYA MEAN, NOW WHAT?!

NOW WHAT?

HMM.

EXACTLY.

THEY'RE NOT SO SMALL, YOU KNOW. BUT THE MAIN TRICK IS GETTING IN.

IF THEY EVEN HAVE ANOTHER ROCKET.

BRILLIANT IDEA!

WELL...YOU USE ANOTHER ROCKET...OR SOMETHING...

W-WAIT, IT'D BE BETTER IF WE ALL DIDN'T GO.

TMP. TMP. TMP.

RIGHT-O, CHAP.

WE HAVE TO TRY!

THANK YOU.

HE'S RIGHT.

I'M SURE I JUST SLIPPED YOUR MIND, MATE.

...AND 004 WILL GO.

ME, 008, 006...

THIS IS A DELICATE OPERATION.

003, I HATE PUTTING YOU IN DANGER... BUT YOU'RE RIGHT.

WITH MY HEIGHTENED VISION AND HEARING, I THINK I'LL COME IN RATHER HANDY.

I THINK I SHOULD GO TOO.

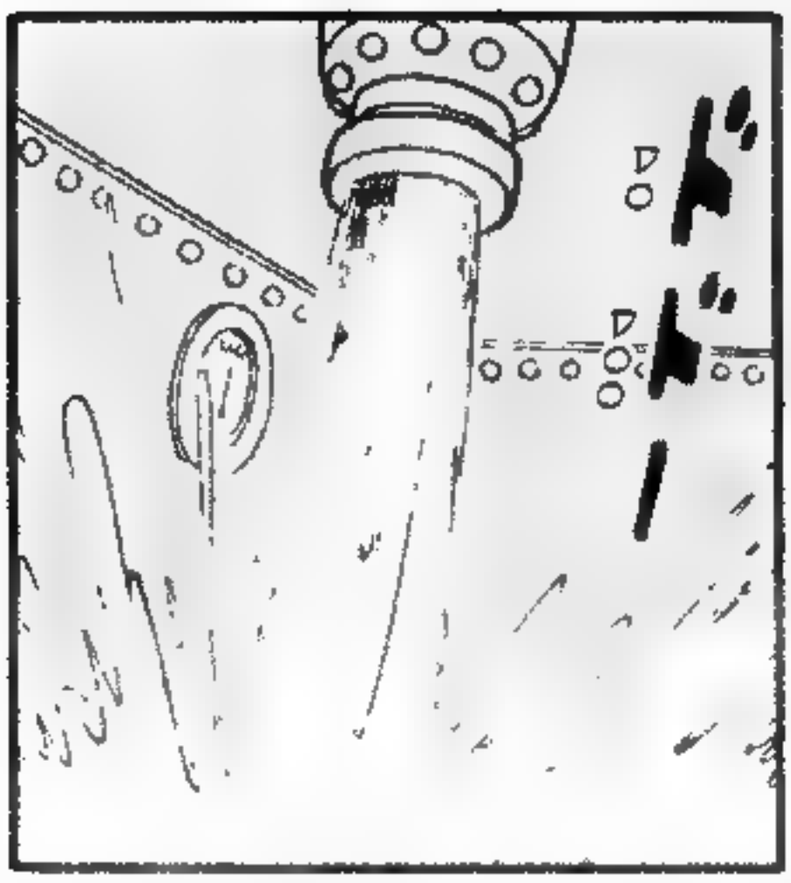
WHAT?

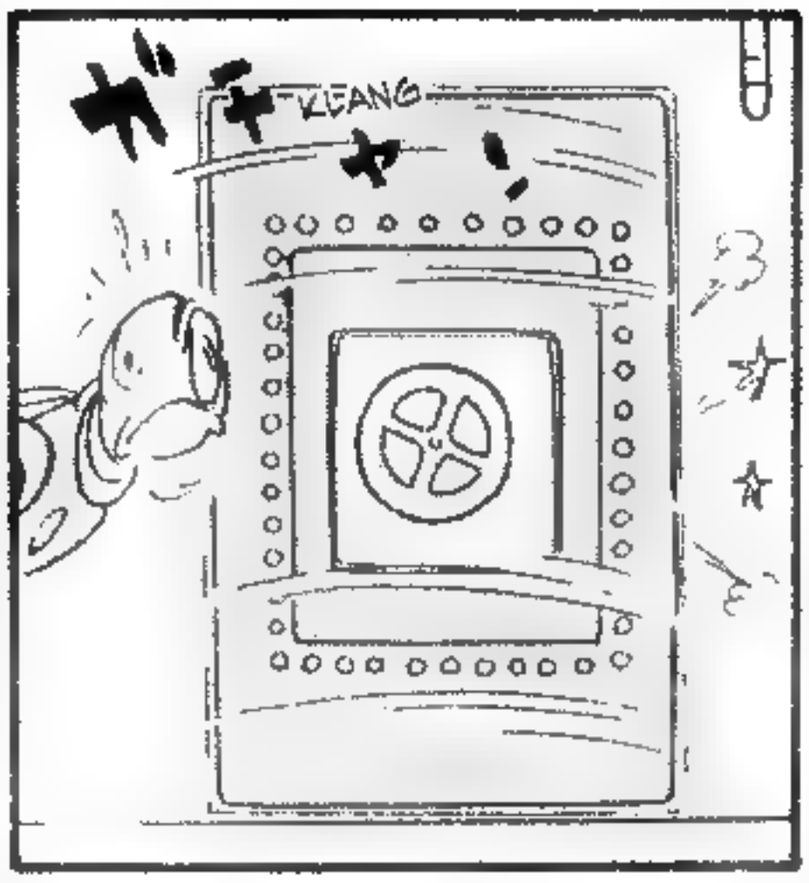
TRUST ME, HE'S PRETTY USEFUL. I BUILT HIM MYSELF. HEH HEH.

EH, BUT...

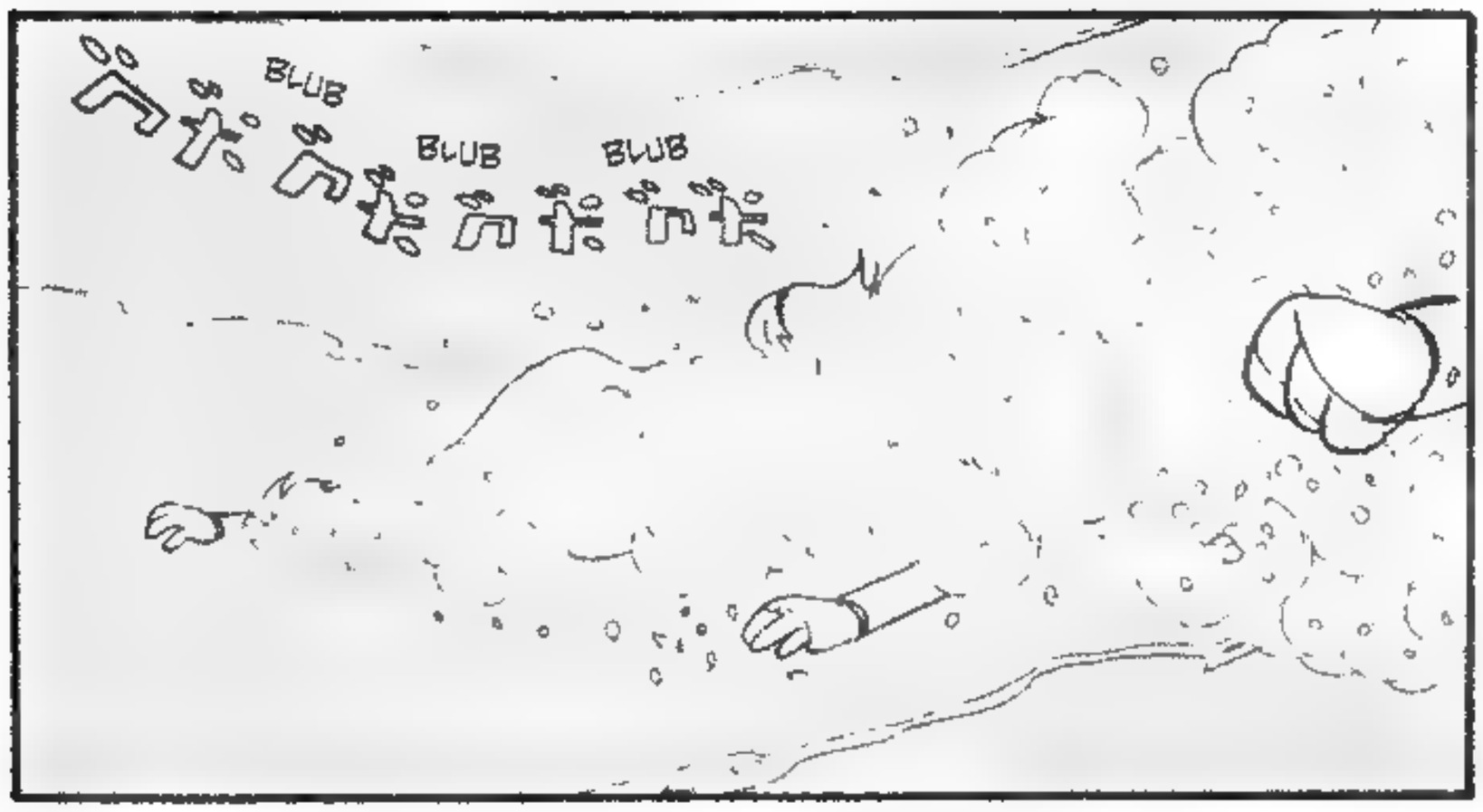
I WILL GO AS WELL.

WAIT!

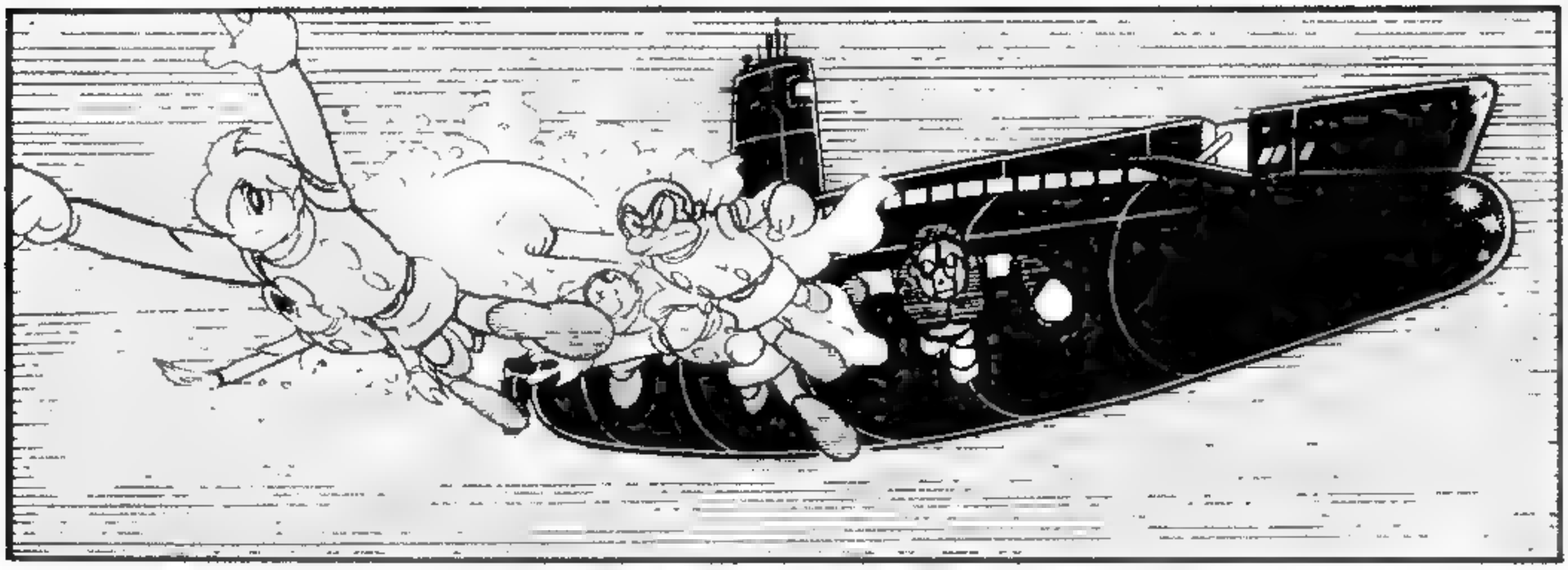



KLANG

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!!


BLUB
BLUB
BLUB

PSSH



OOP, LOOK!
DOLPHINS UP AHEAD.

I WAS CLOSE!!
DAMMIT!

CHOMP

AH?

YEAH. LUCKILY, ITS TEETH COULDN'T PIERCE MY PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.

YOU ARE OKAY?

TH-THANK YOU!

LET'S GO!!

IT HAD A PERIMETER SENSOR IN IT.

OOH! THAT SHELL!!

AND...

I DON'T THINK SO. EVERYTHING IS QUIET INSIDE.

.....

WAIT.

DID IT SEND A SIGNAL?

AND WE STILL HAVE TO GET THROUGH THIS.

...THERE'S ONLY ONE ROCKET LEFT.

AND...IT'S JUST AS DR. YAMAZAKI SAID...

BE CAREFUL. THESE MINES ARE READY TO EXPLODE AT THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH!

OVER THERE...

...THROUGH THAT CREVICE.

IT LOOKS LIKE WE MADE IT... BUT HOW DO WE GET INSIDE?

OOPS...

THIS MUST LEAD TO THE INTERIOR.

WE'LL JUST MAKE OUR OWN ENTRANCE.

IS THAT ALL?

THE WALL'S ABOUT A METER THICK.

IT'S A DEAD END.

IT'S ALL CLEAR!

003, DO YOU SEE ANYONE?

GOOD WORK!

FWOM

TMP

TMP

TMP

LET'S GO!

WE HAVE TO HURRY! THEY'RE ABOUT TO LAUNCH THE OTHER ROCKET!

EVERYONE IS AT THE OTHER END OF THE ISLAND, NEAR THE LAUNCHING PAD.

WHAT?

003, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY KEEP GUNPOWDER?

MAYBE THERE'S A WAY TO DISPERSE THEM.

THE LAUNCHING PAD IS SURROUNDED BY HEAVILY ARMED GUARDS.

WAIT! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO RUSH IN.

YOU GUYS WAIT HERE UNTIL YOU HEAR THE BOOM...

THANKS!

THERE'S GUNPOWDER RIGHT OFF THE END OF THIS CORRIDOR.

OVER THERE.

WAIT...

BE CAREFUL 004!

...THEN USE THE DISTRACTION TO STRIKE!

WHAM

NOW I JUST HAVE TO GET INSIDE.

WEE-OO

THAT WASN'T A BOOM! THAT'S THE ALARM!

BNNT BNNT

HERE GOES NOTHING!

THIS WAY.

NOW?

TMP

TMP

TMP

SECURE THE LAUNCH ROOM.

WEE-OO

FIND THE INTRUDER.

WEE-OO

WAIT! THERE'S STILL TOO MANY OF THEM.

WHO'S THAT?!

KAAN KAAN

HEY.

YOU GUYS CAN SNEAK IN FROM BEHIND.

KAAN KAAN KAAN

I'LL CREATE A DIVERSION ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLATFORM.

I'LL GO FIRST.

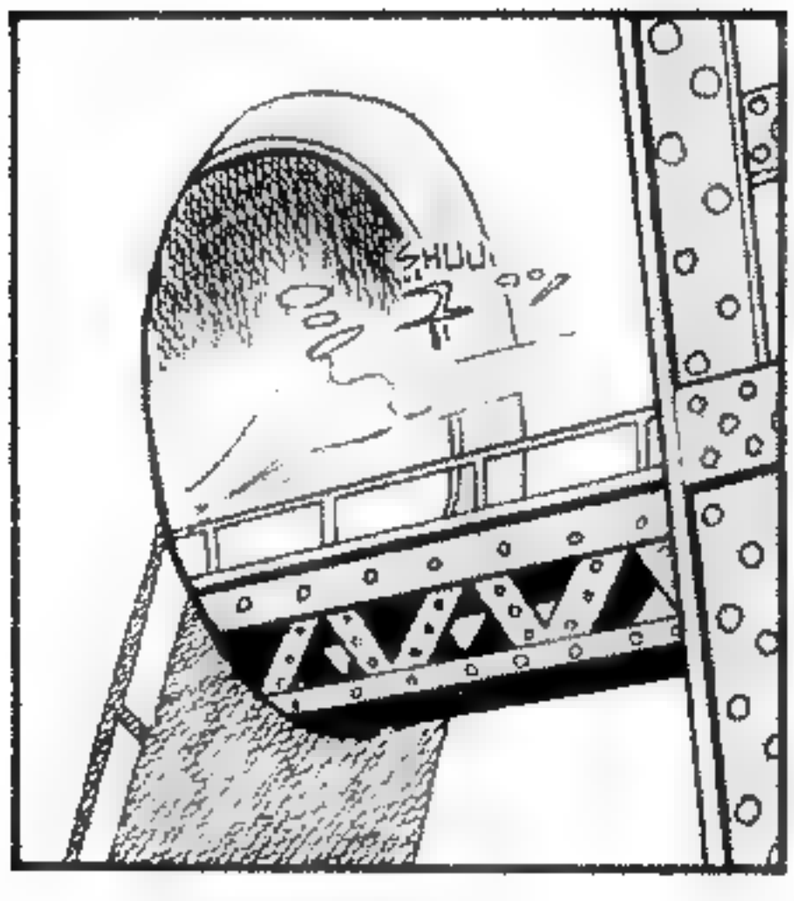
SHUU

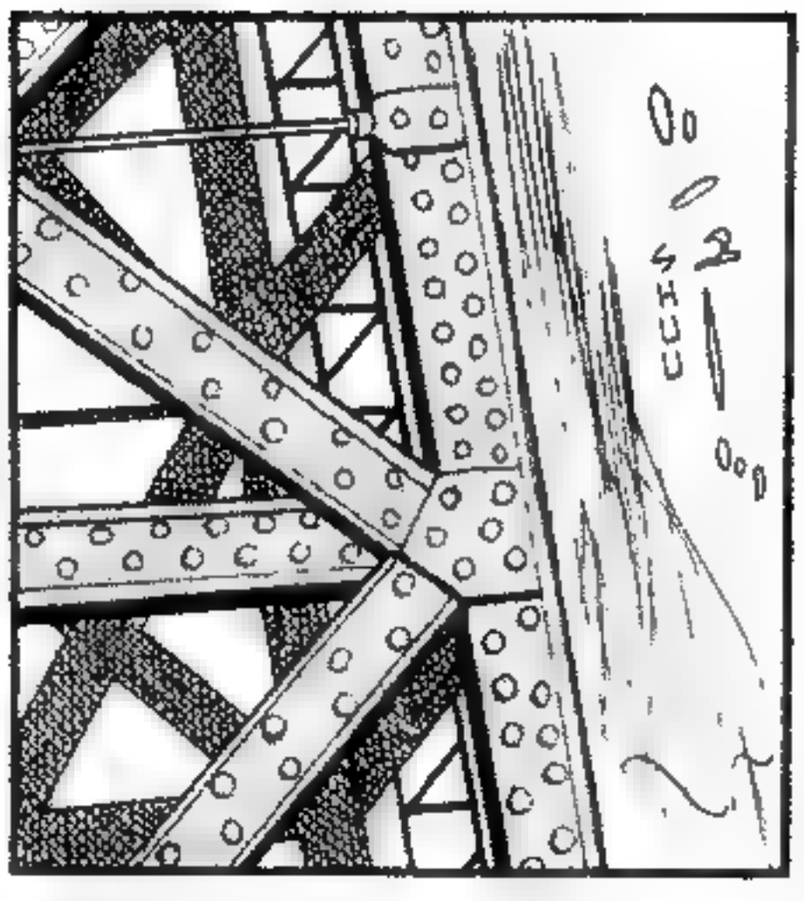
click

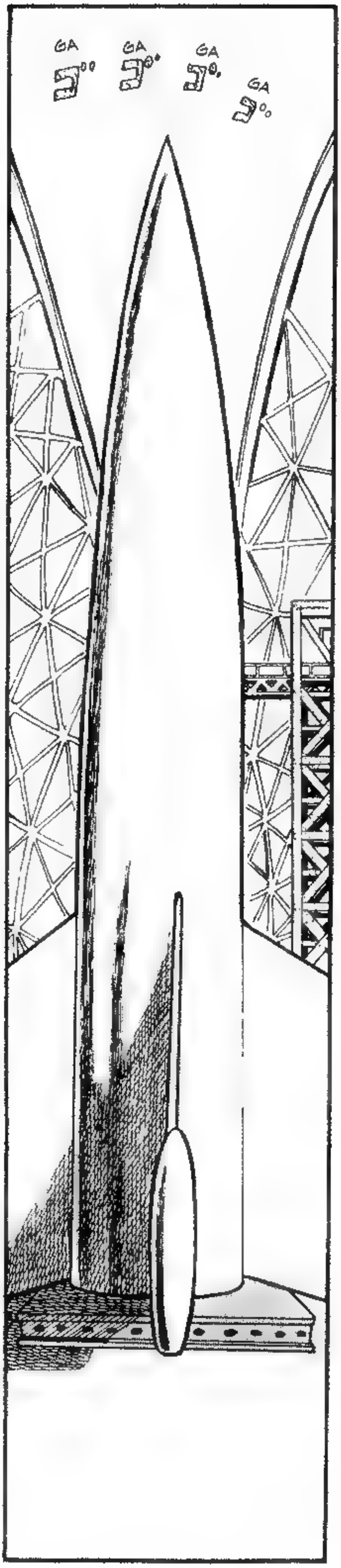
STOP HIM!

HE'S OUR MAN!

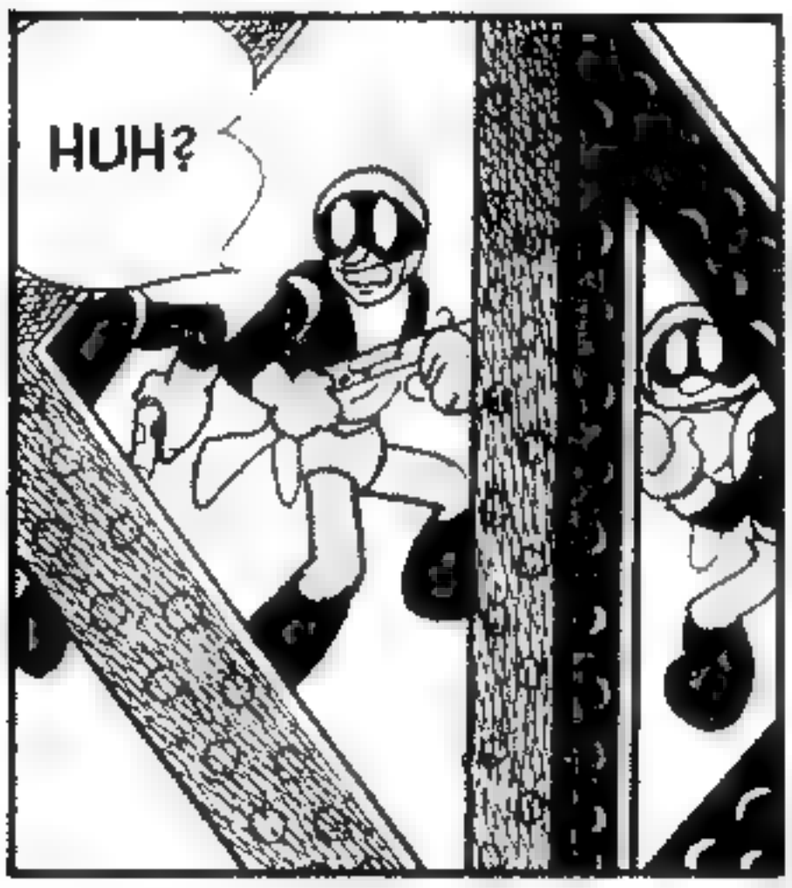
TMP TMP TMP






GA
GA
GA
GA

AND DO IT QUIETLY!
カチャ
KACHAK
HANDS UP, NOW!


HUH?

WE'VE BEEN SEEN.

FAA

FWIP

HURRY!

THERE'S THE GUNPOWDER!

BOOM

TMP

BLAST

KORK

KORK

BUT LOOK!

THE WHOLE BLOOMING ROCK JUST WENT UP!

IT APPEARS THAT THEY WERE TOO LATE.

THE OTHER ROCKET HAS ALREADY LAUNCHED!

DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO

SPLASH
SPLASH

WAIT A MOMENT!

BSSSH

LOOKS LIKE BLACK GHOST SUCCEE-DED!!

THEN... THEN THAT WOULD MEAN... DO YOU THINK... ?

THEN AGAIN, IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT A COMPLETE BLACK GHOST CREW IS ABOARD.

I SURE AS HELL HOPE SO.

PERHAPS THEY WERE ABLE TO BOARD THE ROCKET.

GA GA GA GA GA GA GA GA

...BUT UNTIL WE HEAR FROM THEM, WE HAVE TO ASSUME THE WORST.

I HOPE NOT...

GA GA GA GA GA GA

0041
0041

ゴ ゴ ゴ
GA GA GA

OVER WHERE? I DON'T SEE YOU.

I'M OVER HERE.

008?

ANSWER IF YOU CAN HEAR ME!

004!

I'M ON MY WAY!

MIND LENDING A HAND?

I'M UNDER THESE ROCKS. I'M TRAPPED.

BAZZ

WATCH YOUR HEAD. I'M GOING TO BLAST THE ROCKS.

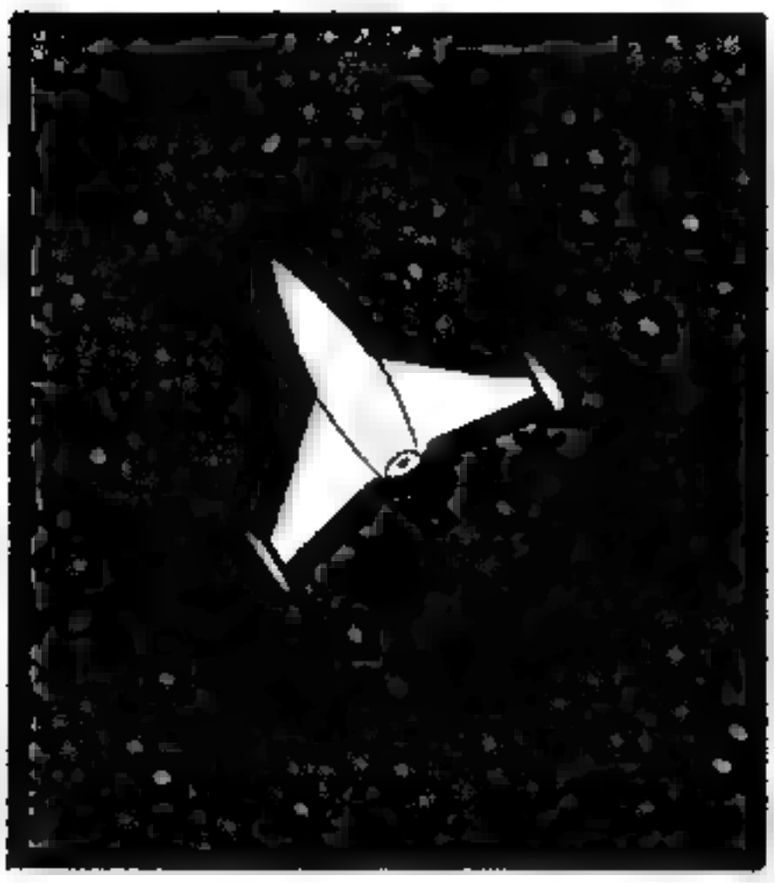
BA

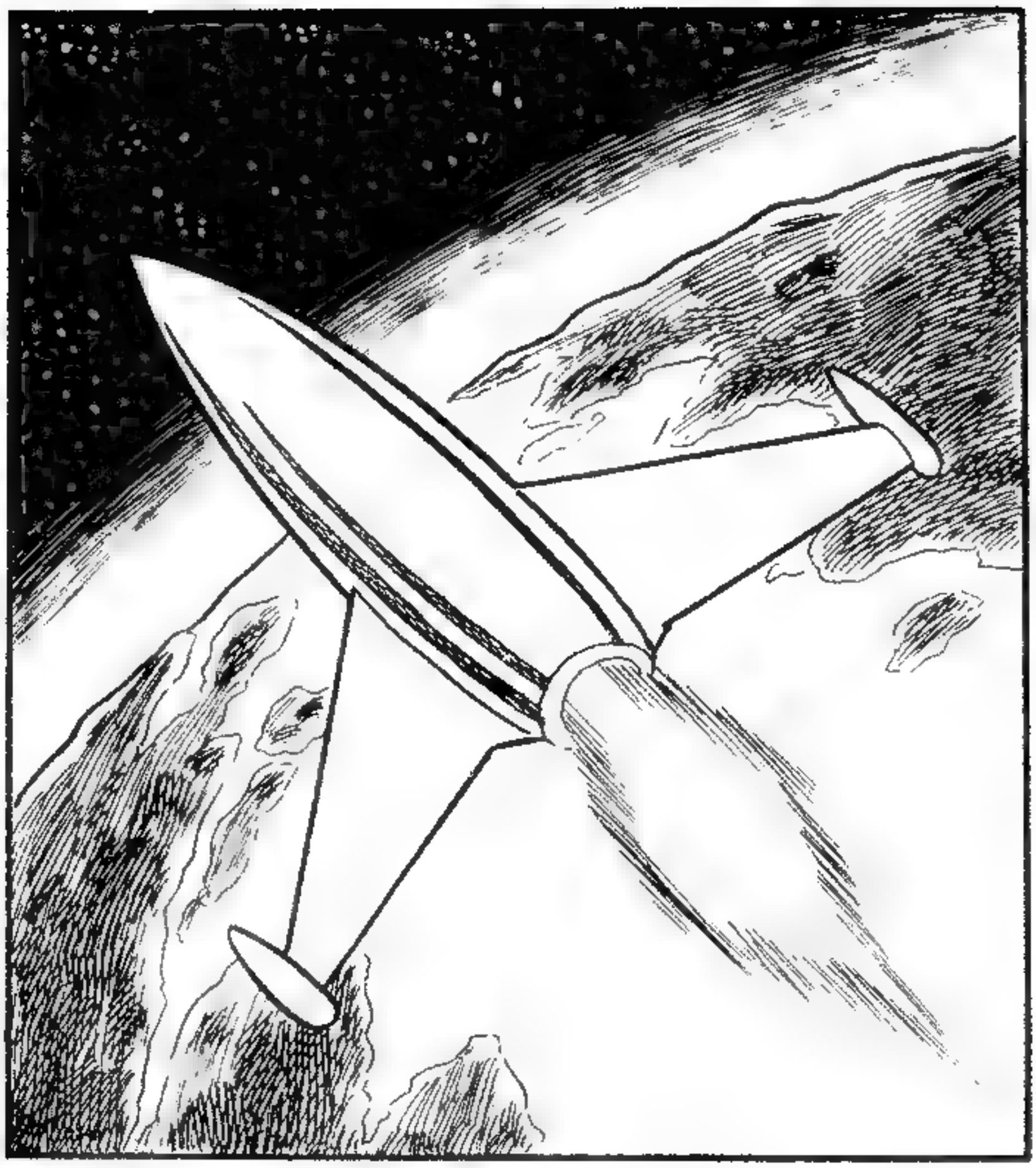
BA

BA

BA

BA





BETTER HERE THAT GOING UP WITH THAT ISLAND.

WHOA! NO GRAVITY. WE MUST HAVE BROKEN THE ATMOSPHERE.

UHH...

HAH! EVEN YOU'RE WEIGHTLESS UP HERE!

HELP ME. I'M FLOATING AWAY.

HEY!

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. IT WAS JUST SUCH A VIOLENT EXPLOSION.

I ASSUME THEY'RE FINE, INDESTRUCTIBLE CYBORGS AS THEY ARE.

JO, WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

FAIR ENOUGH.

ONCE IT'S DESTROYED, WE'LL DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.

FOR STARTERS, FLY US TO THE SATELLITE BASE BLACK GHOST IS CONSTRUCTING.

OKAY, SINCE YOU'VE HIJACKED THE ROCKET, WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

I DON'T KNOW HOW ANYTHING COULD HAVE SURVIVED.

JQ, PLEASE START PREPARA-TIONS.

AND WE MIGHT JUST SURPRISE YOU.

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT. ALL YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IS GETTING US THERE!

IT'S GOING TO TAKE A LOT MORE THAN THE FOUR OF YOU TO EVEN PUT A DENT IN THAT SATELLITE.

HOWEVER, I THINK I SHOULD WARN YOU...

IT'S LIKE A BIG BLUE BALL WRAPPED IN WHITE THREAD.

AND SO PEACE-FUL.

WOW! THE EARTH IS SO BLUE AND BEAUTIFUL FROM UP HERE.

LOOK.

WE'RE CROSSING OVER INTO NIGHT.

THE MOON!

IT'S GETTING DARKER.

IT'S WATCHING THE EARTH.

KACHAK

THIS ROCKET'S FULL OF RAW MATE-RIALS.

JUST AS I FIGURED.

THE SATELLITE IS NEARLY COMPLETE.

UH... NO...

THEY DELIVERING THEM TO THE SATELLITE CONSTRUCTION SITE. ANYTHING ELSE YOU GUYS ARE HIDING?

.....

...NUMBER 28?

QUIET! CARE TO SHARE ANYTHING ELSE...

NUMBER 28, YOU WANNA GIVE THEM BLACK GHOST'S SHOE SIZE WHILE YOU'RE AT IT?

ONCE WE ARRIVE, THE ROCKET IS TO BE DISMANTLED AND USED FOR PARTS FOR THE BASE AS WELL.

WELL ACTUALLY THERE ARE TWO BASES.

WHO KNOWS? IMPRESS ME ENOUGH, I MIGHT EVEN SPARE YOUR LIFE.

AS SOON AS BLACK GHOST REALIZES WE'VE STRAYED FROM OUR PATH, HE'S GOING TO DESTROY THIS SHIP.

...ON THE MOON! THAT WAS OUR ORIGINAL DESTINATION.

YOU'LL SEE THE FIRST BASE SOON ENOUGH...BUT BLACK GHOST IS BUILDING ANOTHER ONE...

WHAT?

WE'LL ALREADY BE TOO FAR AWAY.

ON TOP OF THAT, ONCE THE MOON BASE FINDS OUT WE'RE LATE...

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN EVEN DEFEND OURSELVES.

THIS IS A TRANSPORT VESSEL ONLY. WE HAVE NO WEAPONS.

IF THEY ATTACK US, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.

PLEASE, LET'S JUST FLY AWAY. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

SHIVER

SHIVER

THEY'LL DESTROY US IN MERE SECONDS!

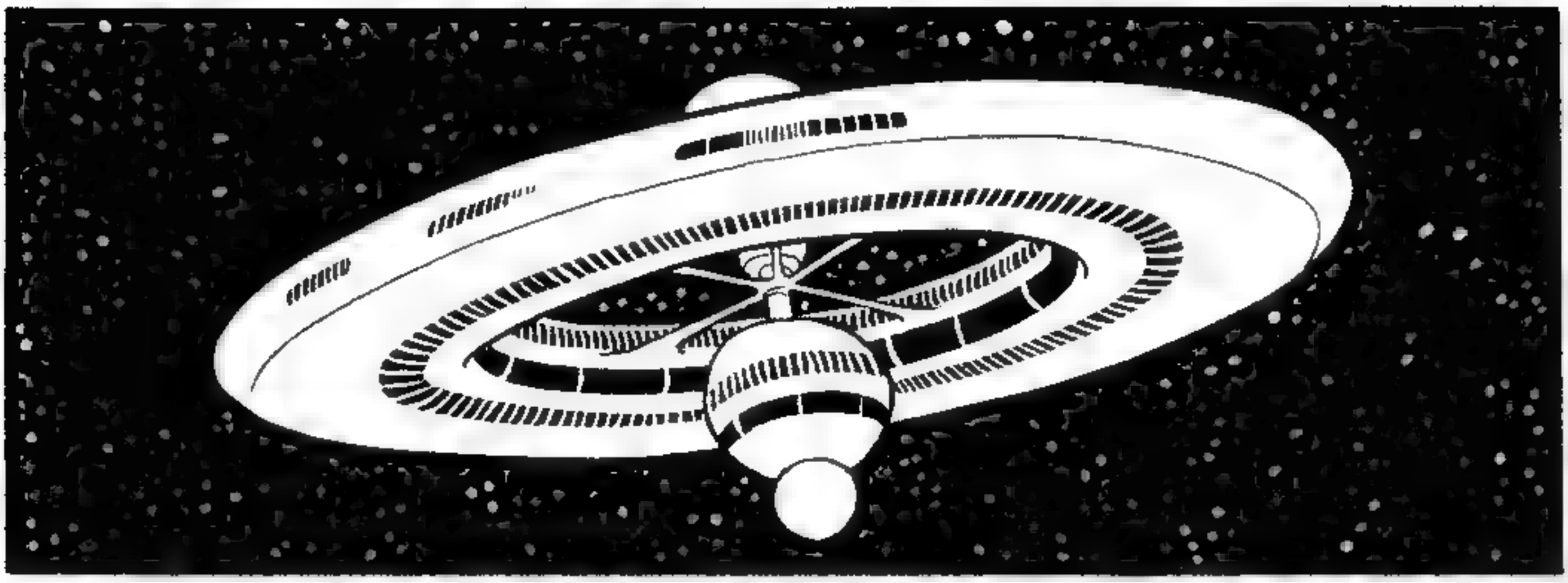
NO, WE CAN NEVER GET FAR ENOUGH AWAY. THE MOON BASE IS ARMED TO THE TEETH!

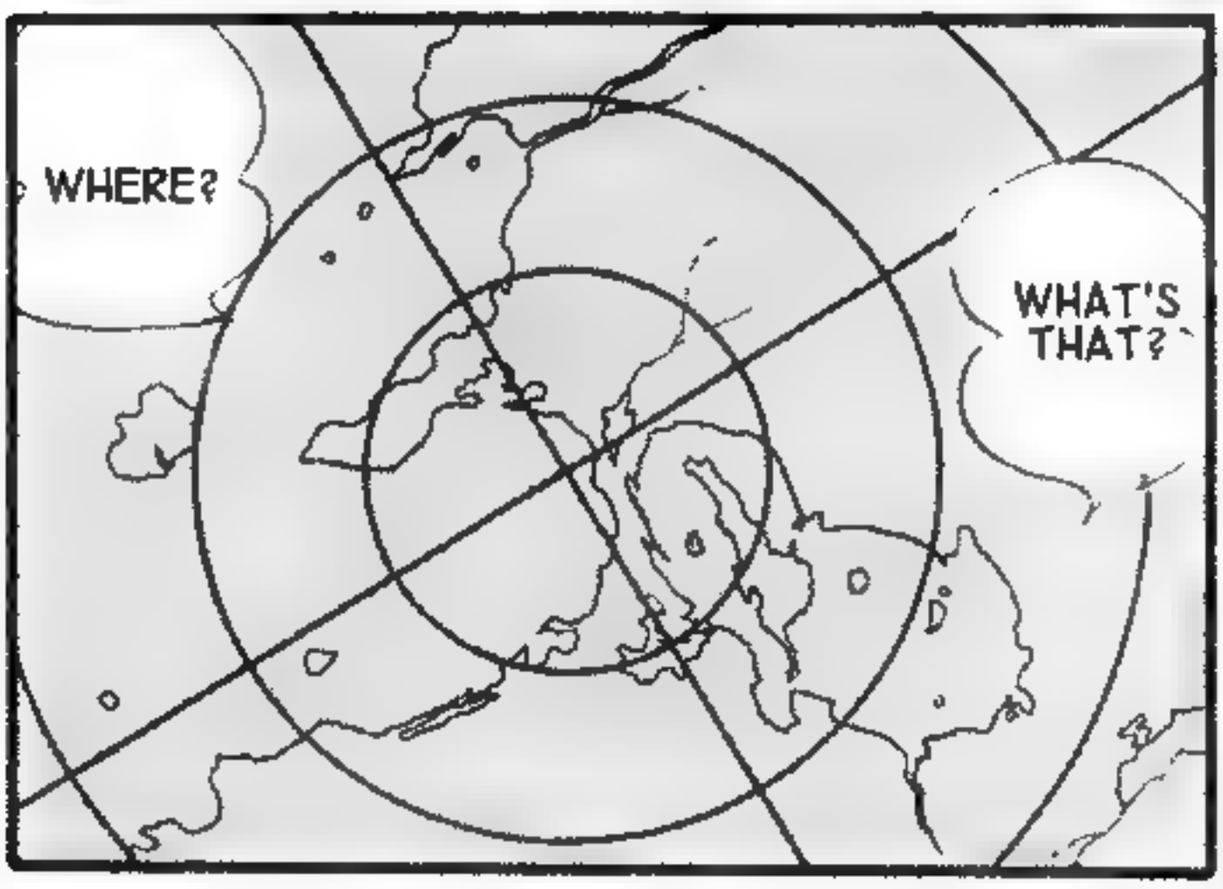
...HELP ME, I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!

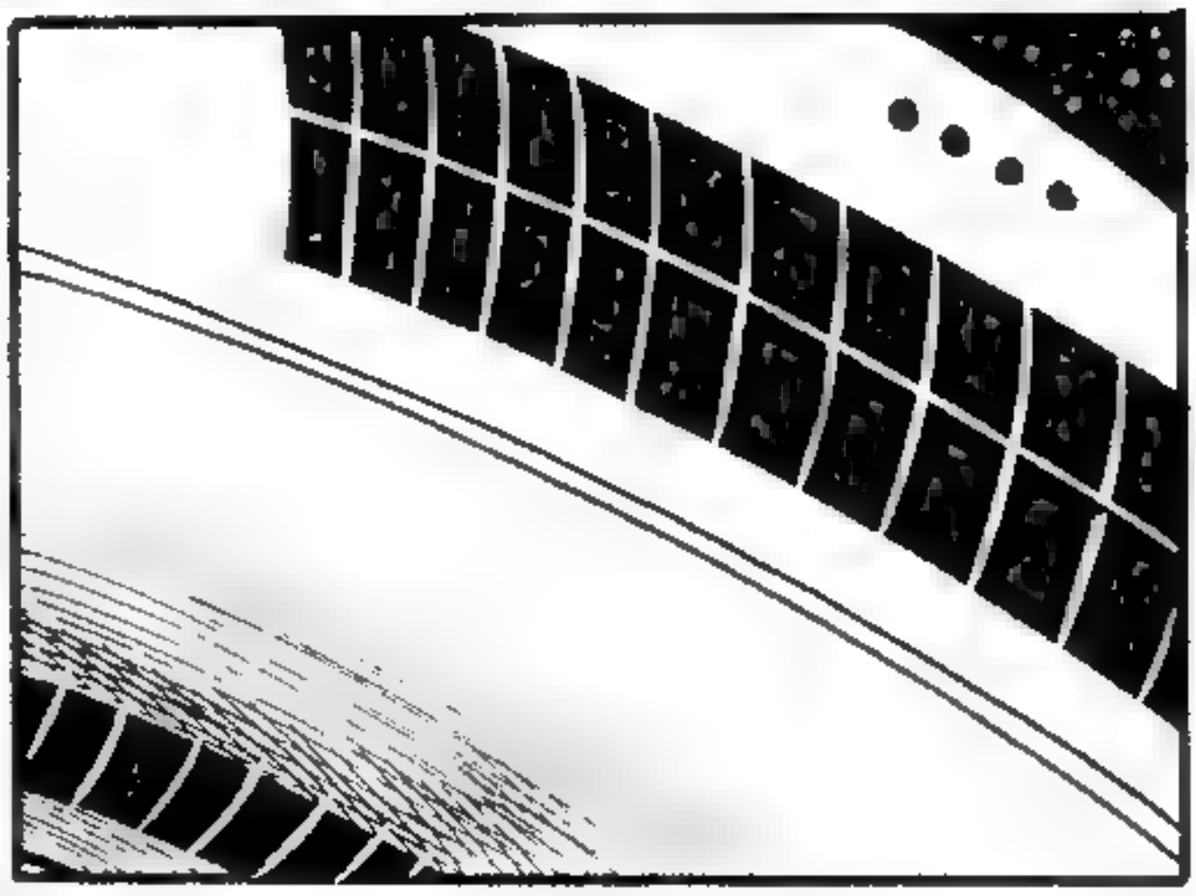
DON'T INVOLVE US...

HELP ME, HELP ME...

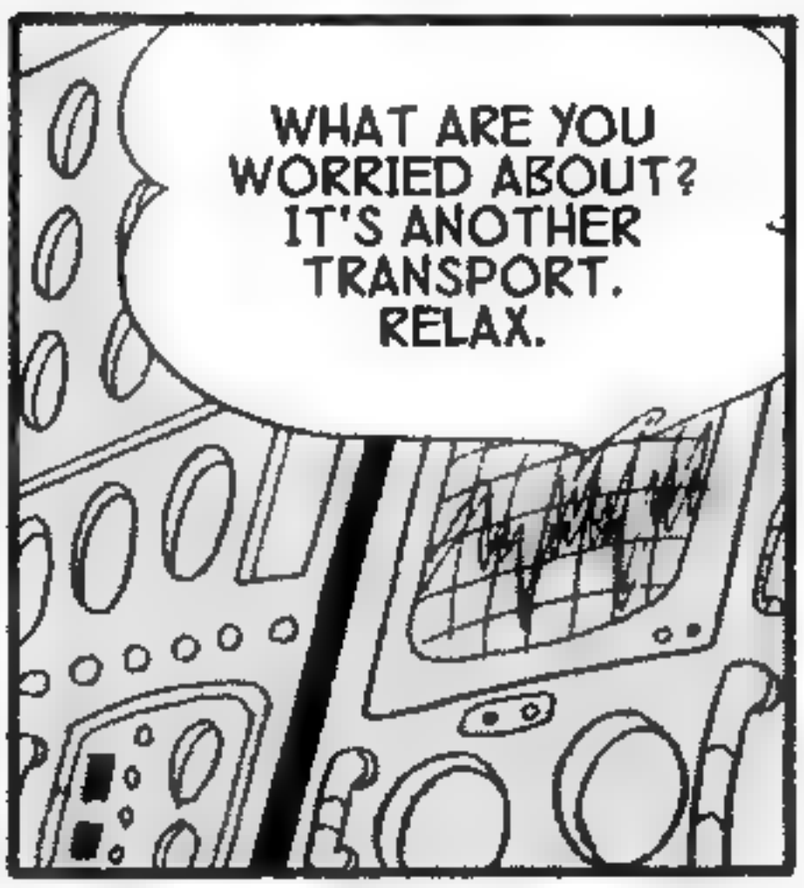
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

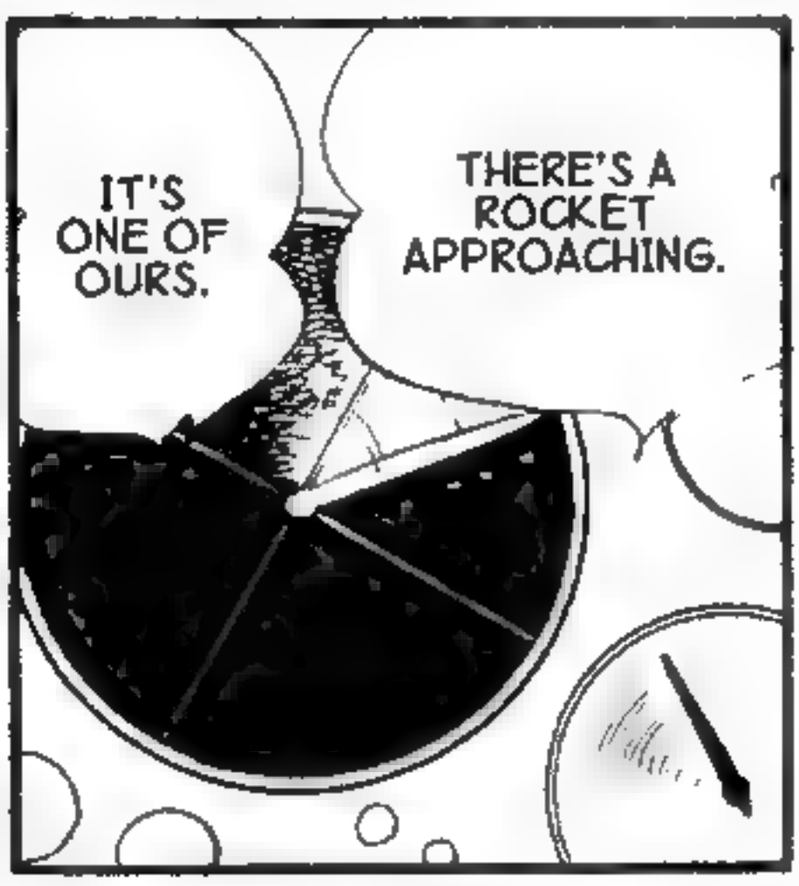



WHERE?
WHAT'S THAT?

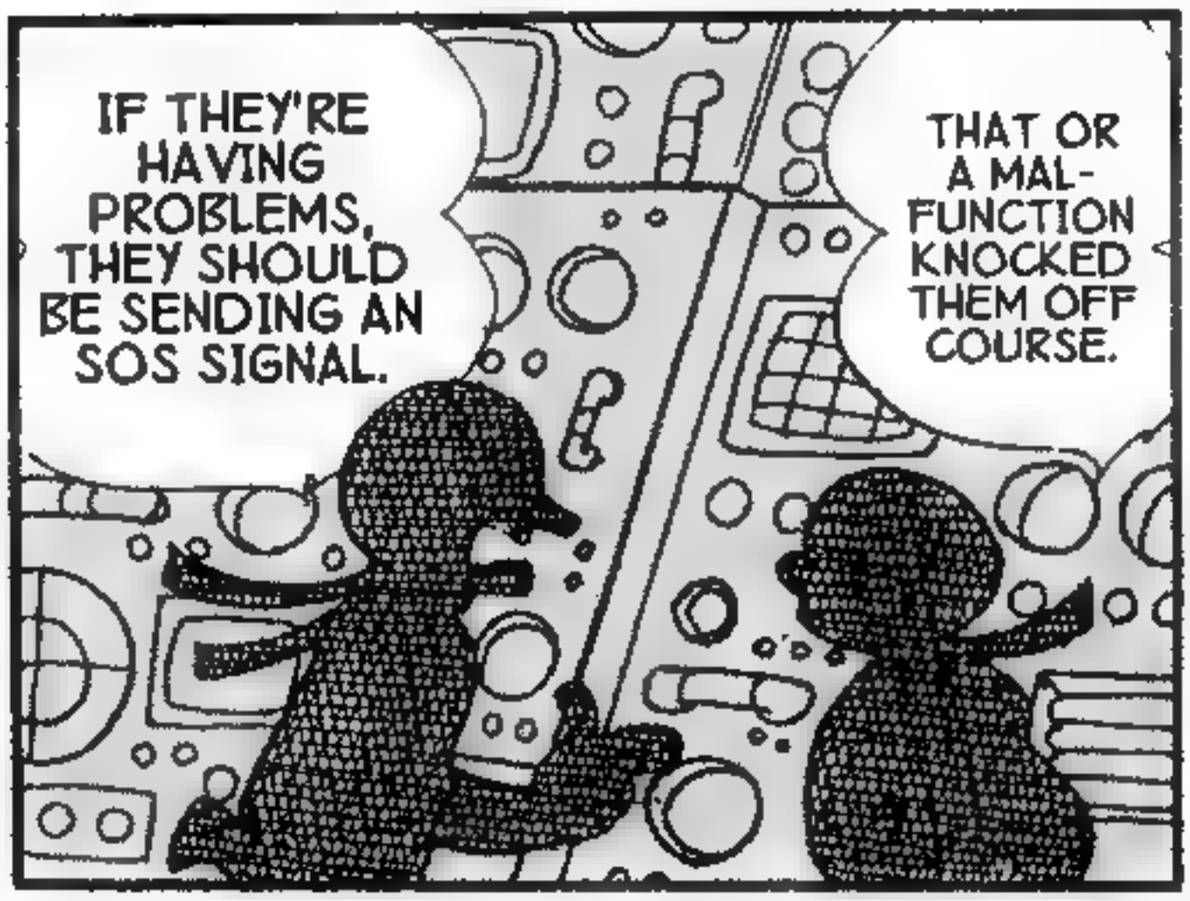


LISTEN TO ME. THERE ARE NO DROPS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY.
YEAH, WELL, MAYBE THEY'RE TRYING TO SPEED UP THE SCHEDULE.


WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT? IT'S ANOTHER TRANSPORT. RELAX.


IT'S ONE OF OURS.
THERE'S A ROCKET APPROACHING.

HMMM...MAYBE THE MALFUNC-TION HAS ALSO DAMAGED THEIR COMM. EQUIPMENT.
BUT THEY ARE NOT RESPONDING TO OUR COMMUNICA-TIONS EITHER.
MAYBE. SEND OUT A RECON SHIP.


IF THEY'RE HAVING PROBLEMS, THEY SHOULD BE SENDING AN SOS SIGNAL.
THAT OR A MAL-FUNCTION KNOCKED THEM OFF COURSE.

PUSH

VOOM

THERE IT IS.

STRANGE. IT'S JUST DRIFTING.

TOO MUCH INTER-FERENCE.

IT'S HARD TO GET A READING.

ANY LIFE FORMS ABOARD?

VEEN

DAMN IT. I WASN'T IN THE MOOD FOR THIS TODAY.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BOARD IT TO CHECK IT OUT.

SHUU

PSSH

DON'T MOVE.

WHAT?

NINJA TECH-NIQUE SUMI-GOROMO.

HEH HEH HEH.

7

SMP

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.

WH-WHO ARE YOU?

PUT YOUR HANDS UP.

UGH.

WHUP

WH-WHO ARE YOU?

IT'S A LITTLE TRICK I LEARNED READING NINJA MANGA.

WAH...

POW

I'M THE ENEMY, FELLAS!

YIKES!

HEH HEH HEH

WHEW

SHHK

HII...

ARE YOU GOING TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS OR DO I BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF?

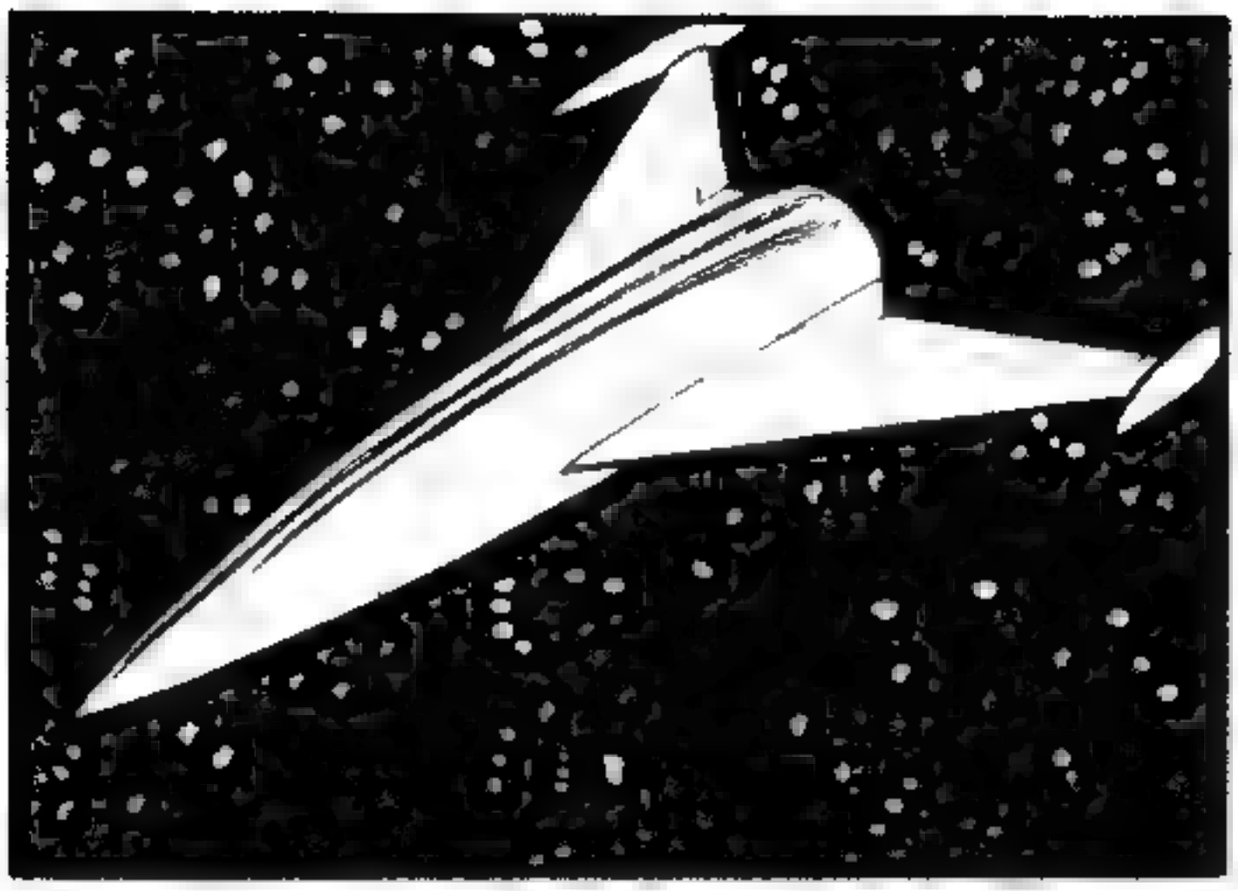
IS THIS VESSEL ARMED? MISSILES? CHARGES?

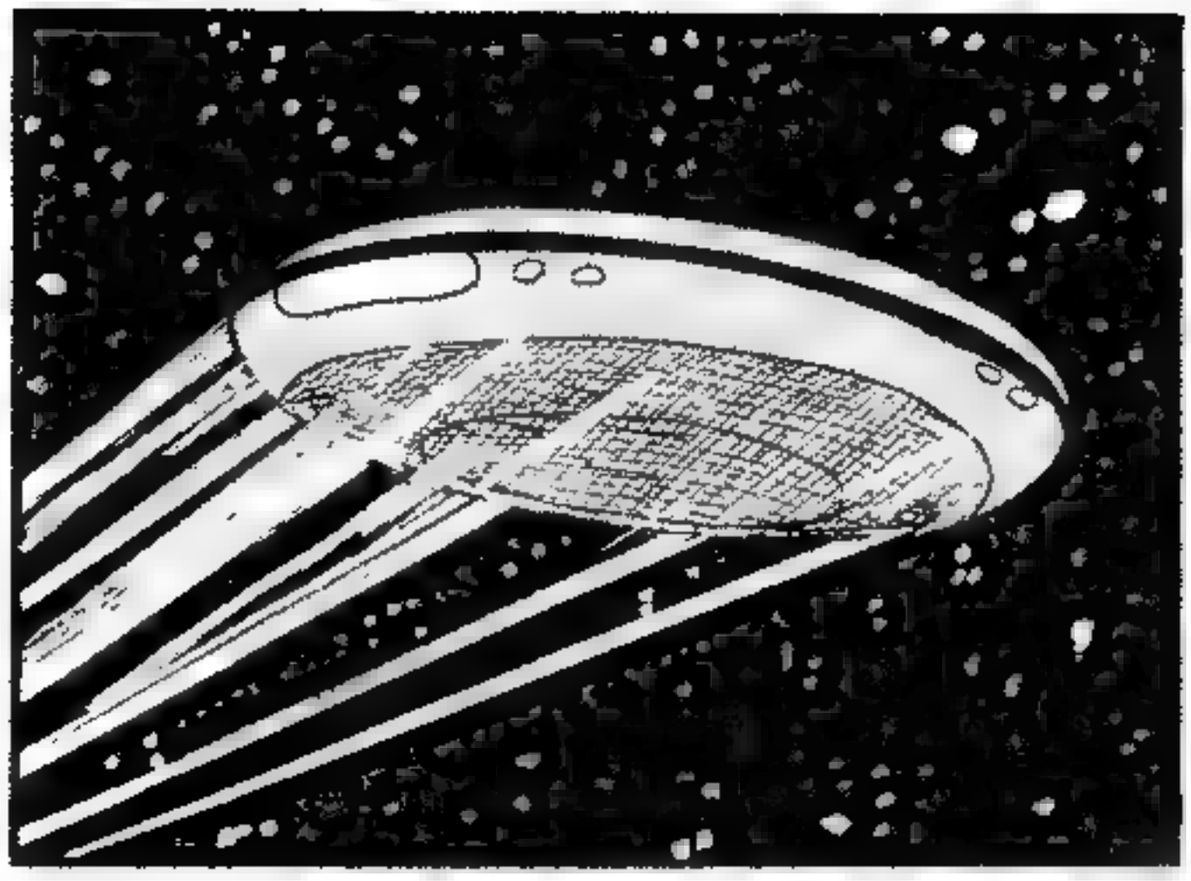
UWAAH.

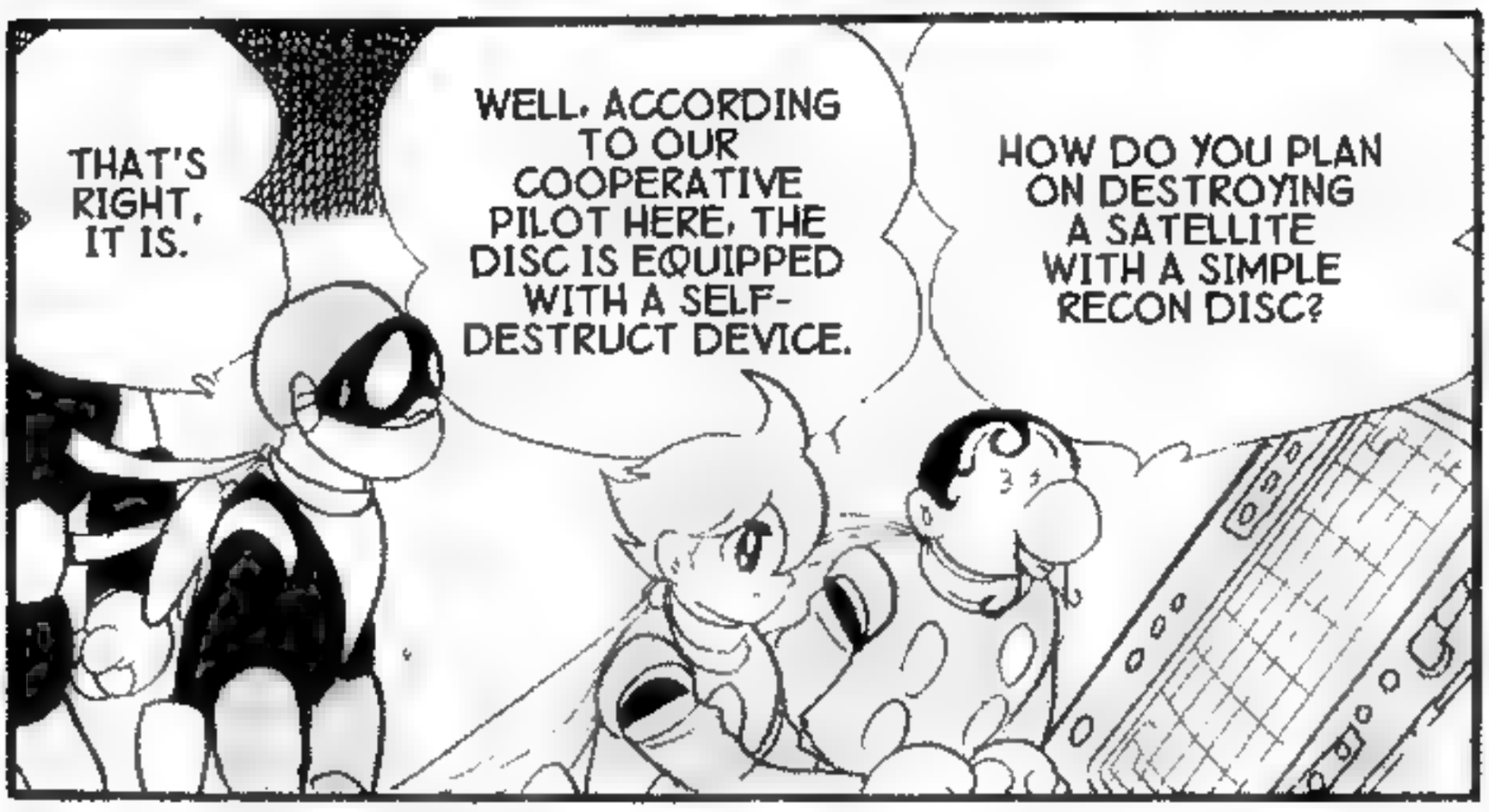
IT'S NOT MAGIC. IT'S AN ACCELERATION SWITCH.

I'M GOING TO STOP THE SATELLITE. YOU WANNA HELP ME AND LIVE?

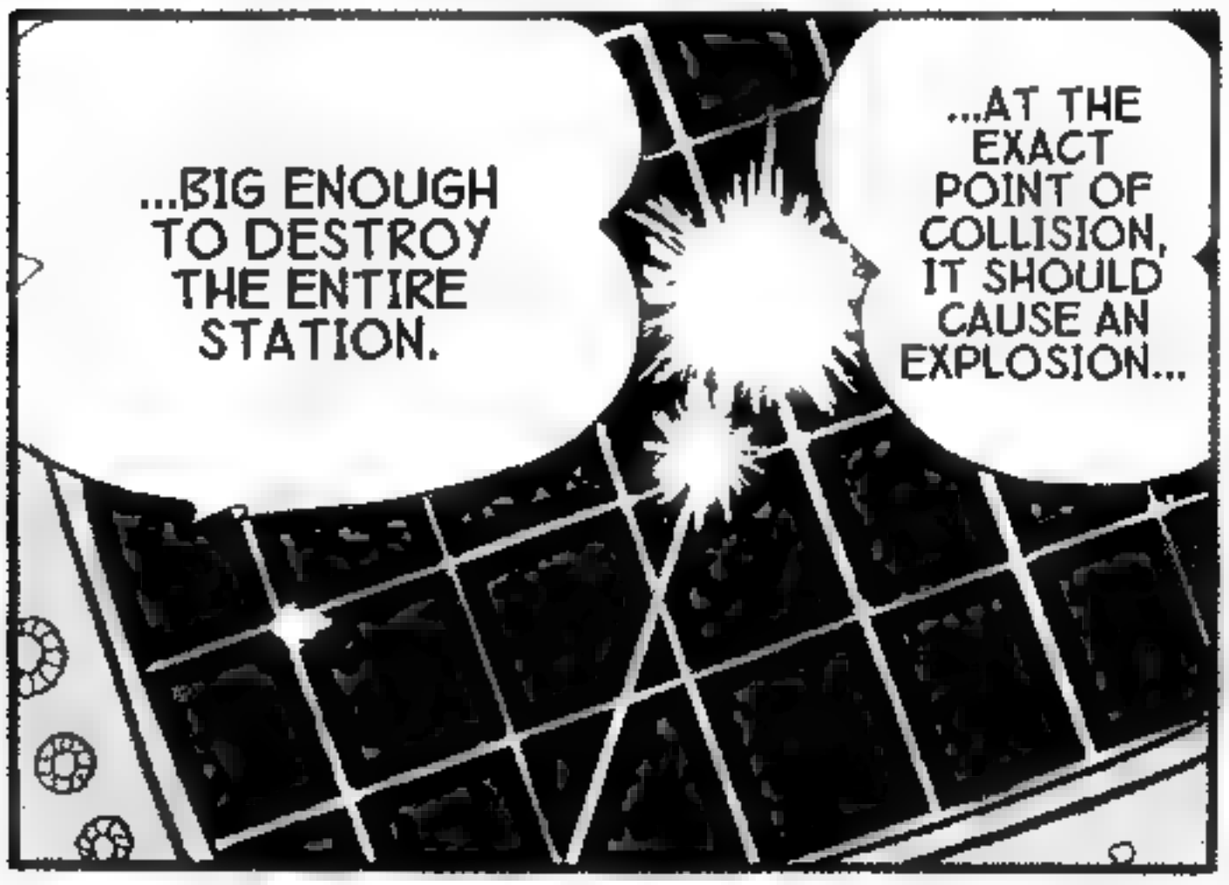
.....

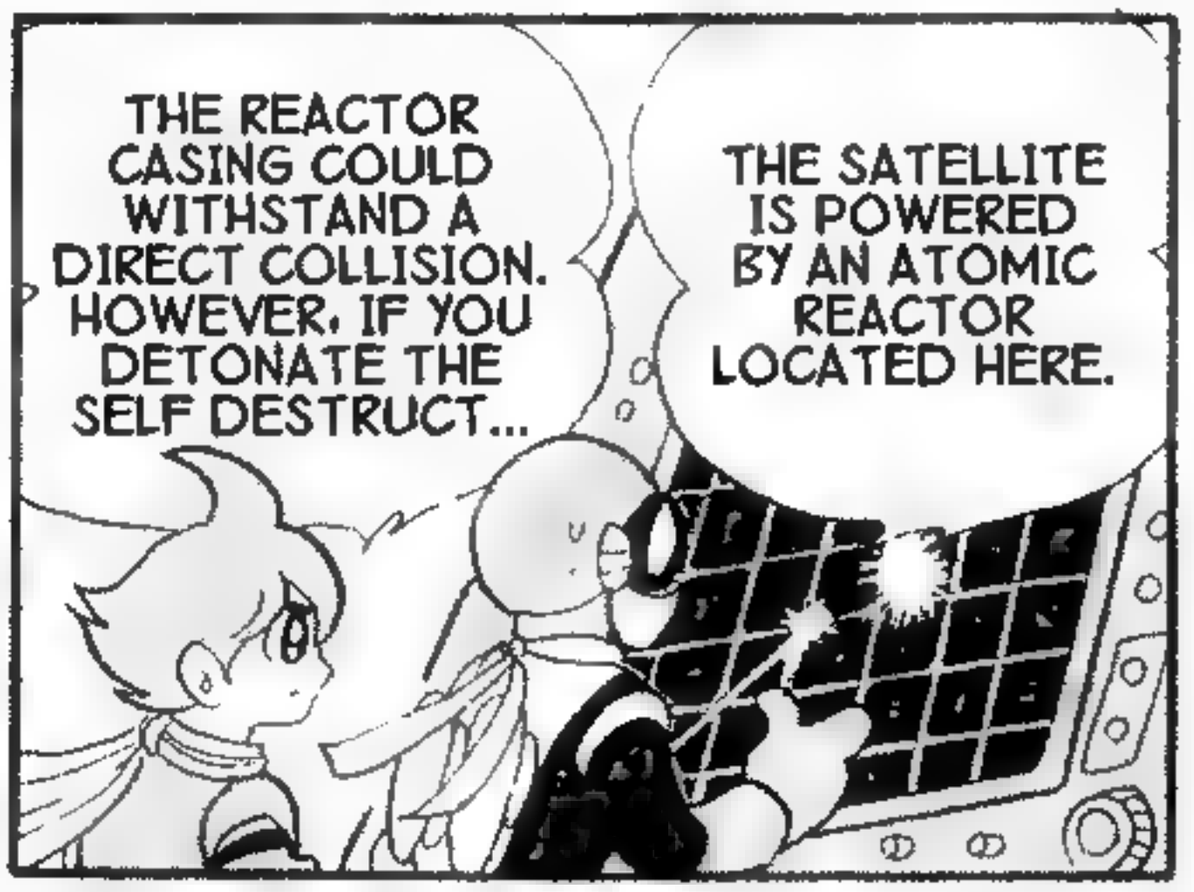


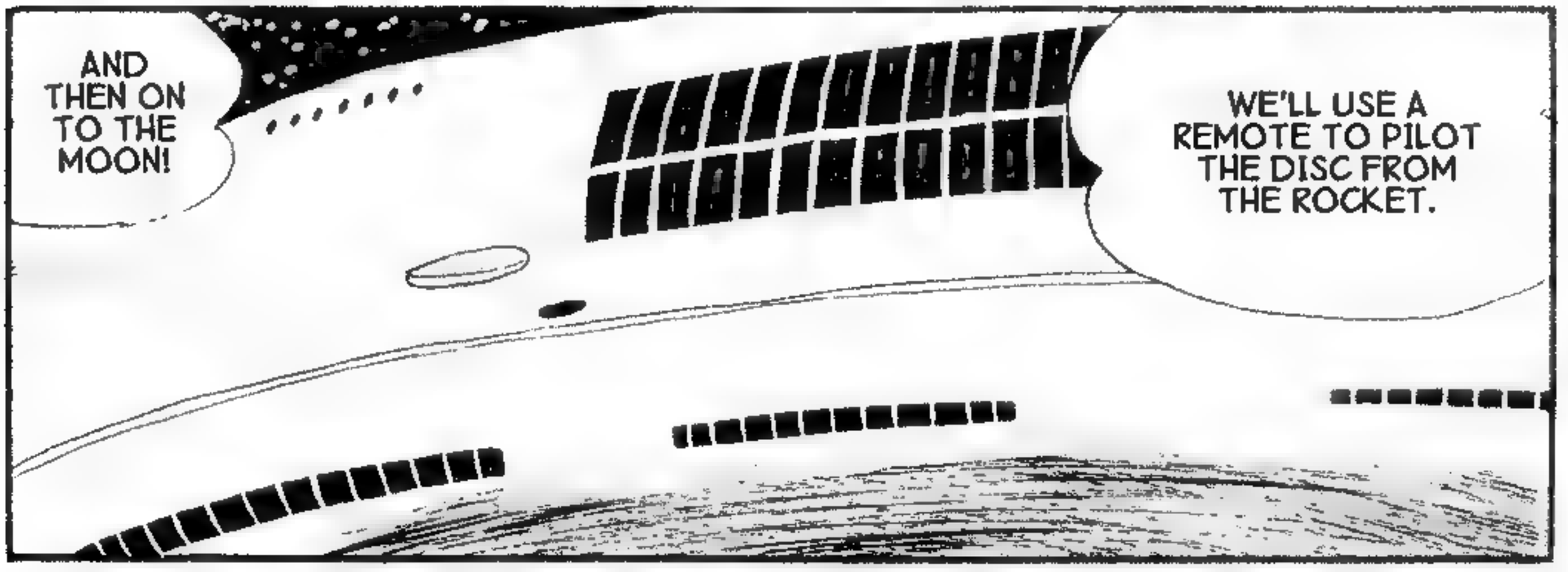


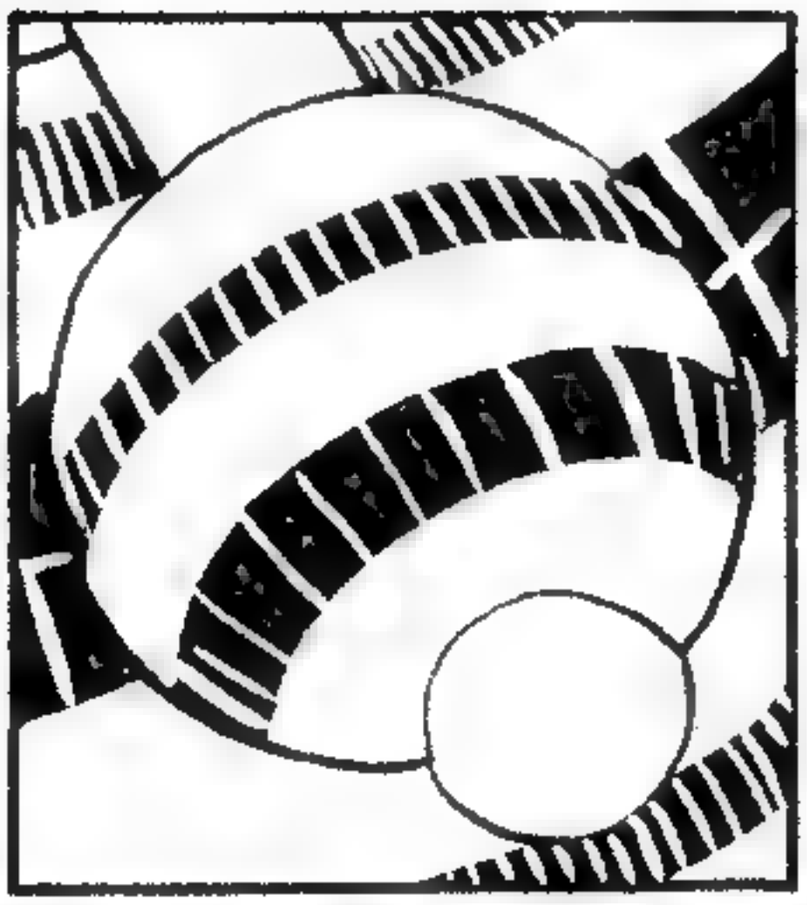

THAT'S RIGHT, IT IS.
WELL, ACCORDING TO OUR COOPERATIVE PILOT HERE, THE DISC IS EQUIPPED WITH A SELF-DESTRUCT DEVICE.
HOW DO YOU PLAN ON DESTROYING A SATELLITE WITH A SIMPLE RECON DISC?

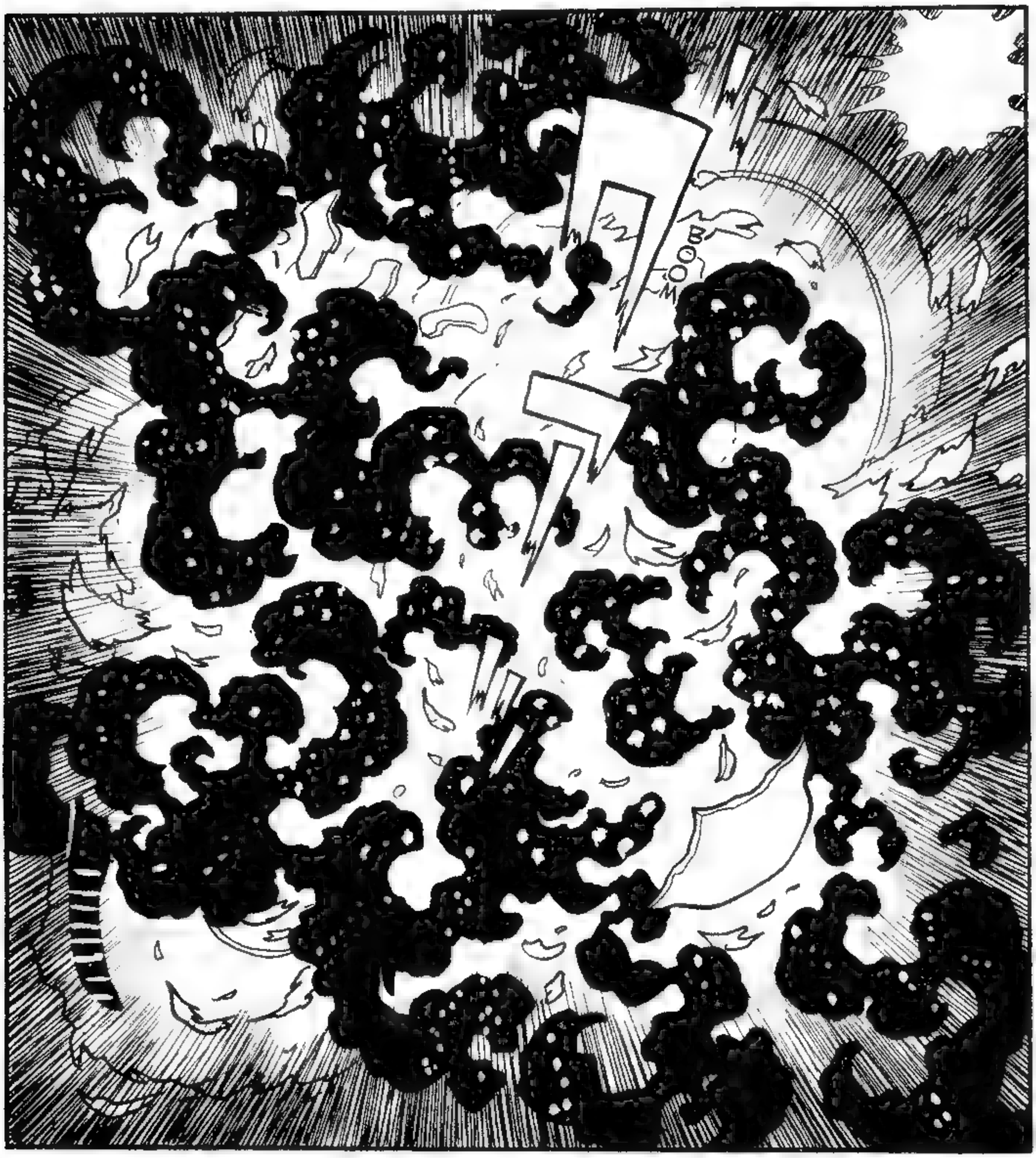
OKAY, ALMOST THERE!


...BIG ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE ENTIRE STATION.
...AT THE EXACT POINT OF COLLISION, IT SHOULD CAUSE AN EXPLOSION...


THE REACTOR CASING COULD WITHSTAND A DIRECT COLLISION. HOWEVER, IF YOU DETONATE THE SELF DESTRUCT...
THE SATELLITE IS POWERED BY AN ATOMIC REACTOR LOCATED HERE.


AND THEN ON TO THE MOON!
WE'LL USE A REMOTE TO PILOT THE DISC FROM THE ROCKET.

PERFECT!




PILOT, SET A COURSE TO THE MOON, QUICKLY...

.....

...BEFORE THEY FIGURE OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING.

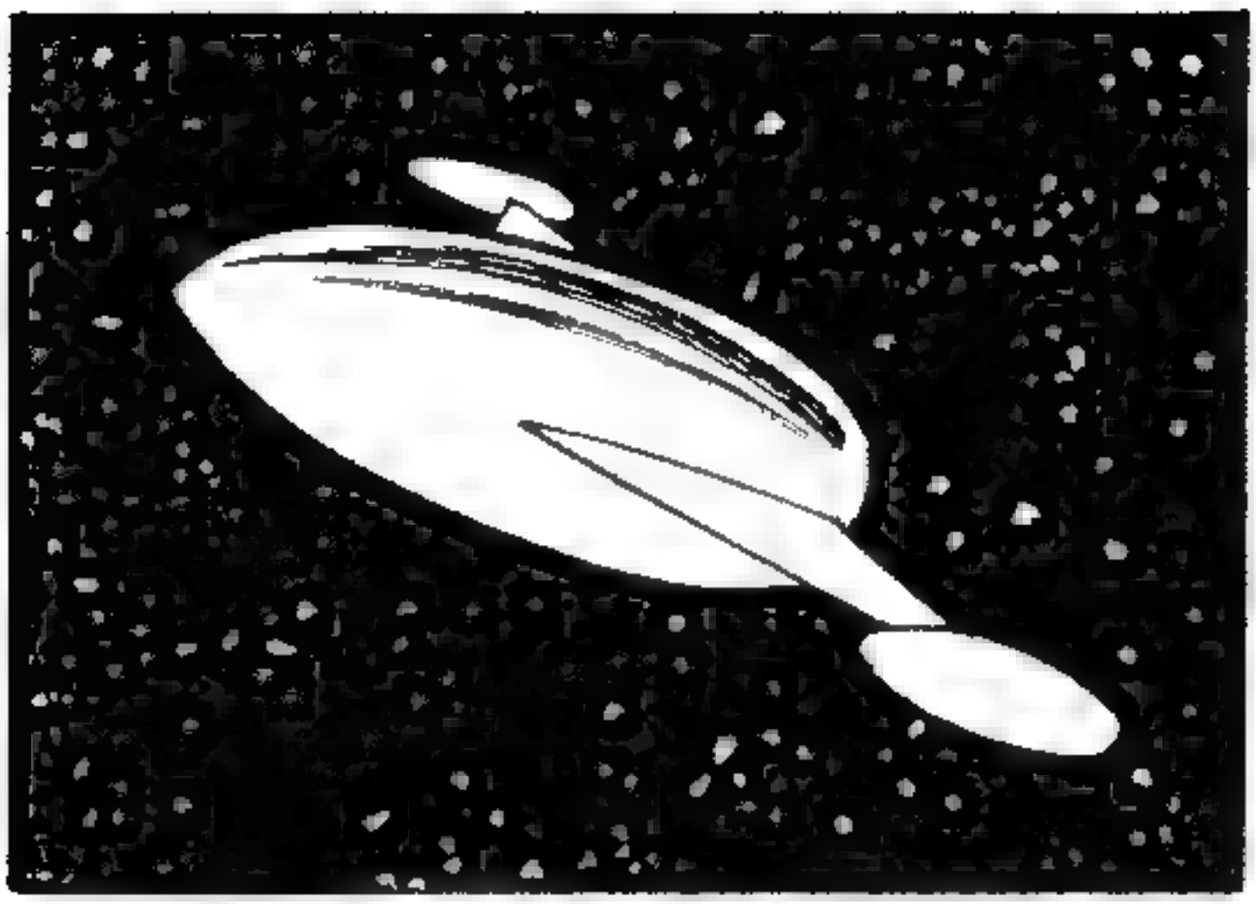
THEY PROBABLY FELT IT ALL THE WAY TO THE MOON. THEY'LL BE WAITING FOR US!

THAT EXPLO-SION WAS HUGE.

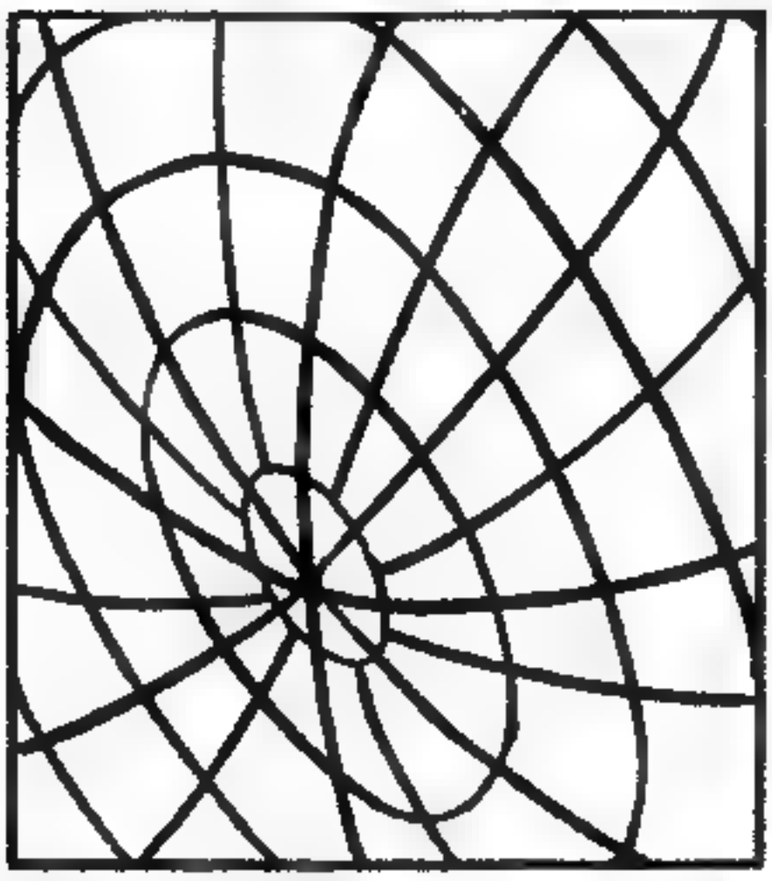
AN ATTACK NOW WILL BE POINTLESS!

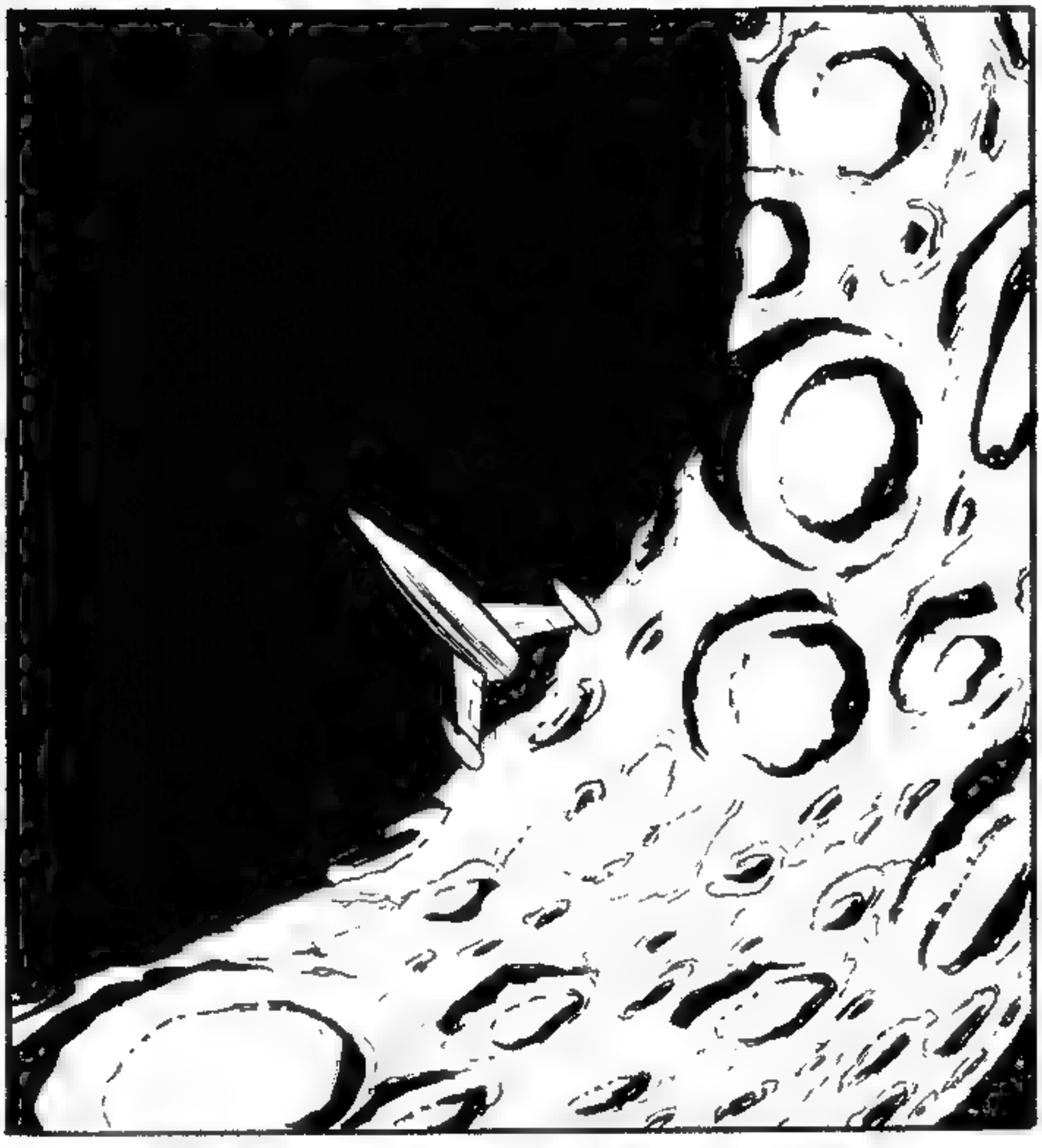
JUST BECAUSE I HAVE TO BE.

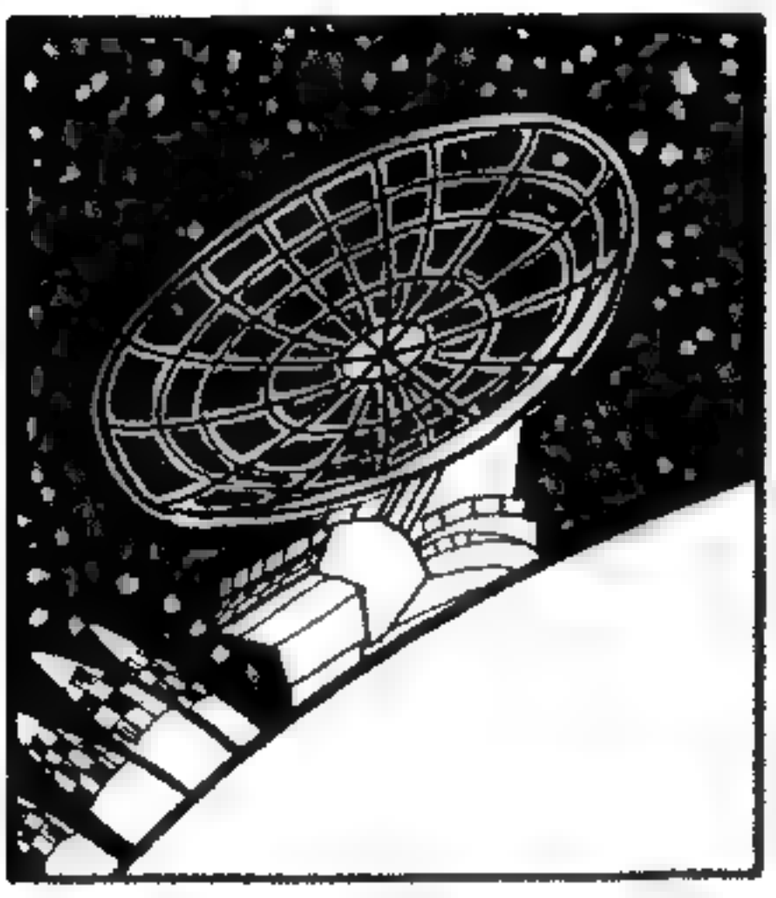
YOU... YOU'RE A MADMAN!

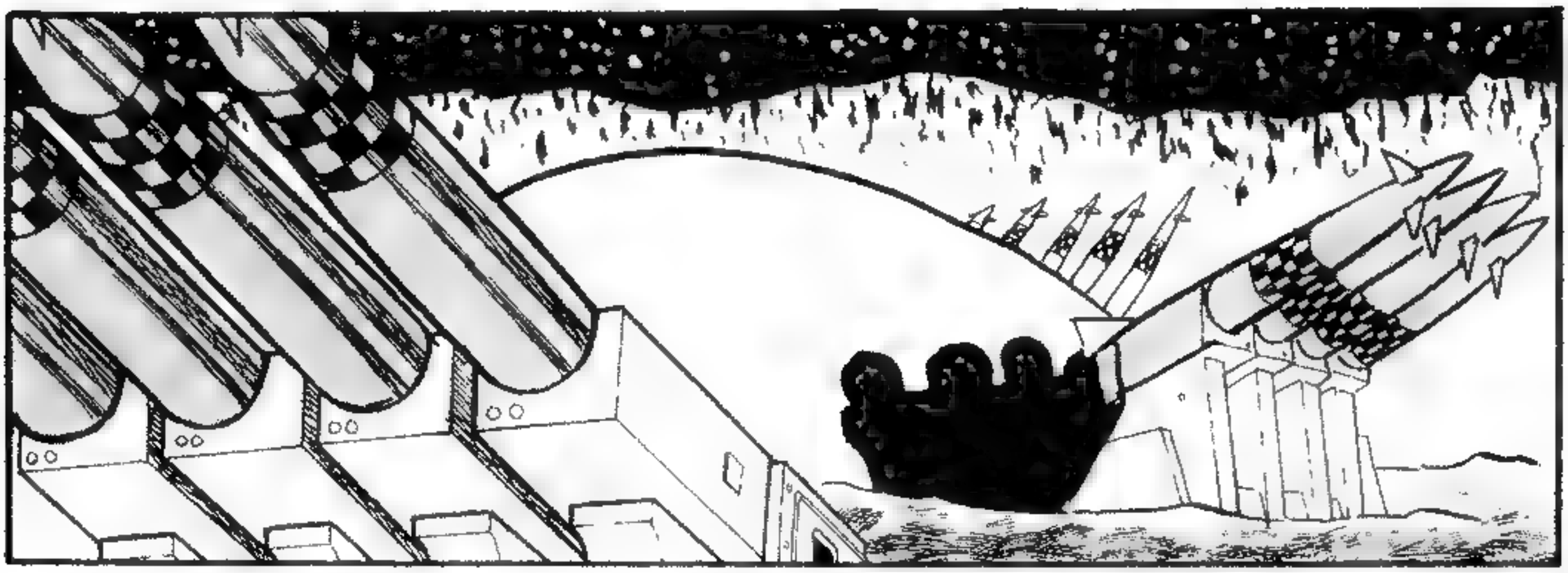


THEY'VE PROBABLY ALREADY FIRED MISSILES AT US!









WE'VE ATTEMPTED COMMUNI-CATION BUT RECEIVED NO RESPONSE.

WHAT HAPPENED?! SATELLITE M-A JUST EXPLODED!

WE DON'T KNOW. THERE'S A TRANSPORT ROCKET FLYING AWAY FROM THE AREA.

A TRANSPORT ROCKET COULDN'T INFLICT THAT KIND OF DAMAGE. MAYBE IT'S AN ESCAPE VESSEL.

HMM! NO RESPONSE...AND IT WAS IN THE AREA DURING THE EXPLOSION?

WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

ROGER!!

DESTROY THAT SHIP!!

PREPARE TO FIRE MISSILES ON MY MARK!!

THAT ROCKET HAS BEEN HIJACKED BY THE ENEMY.

WE HAVE TO ASSUME THE WORST!

FLASH

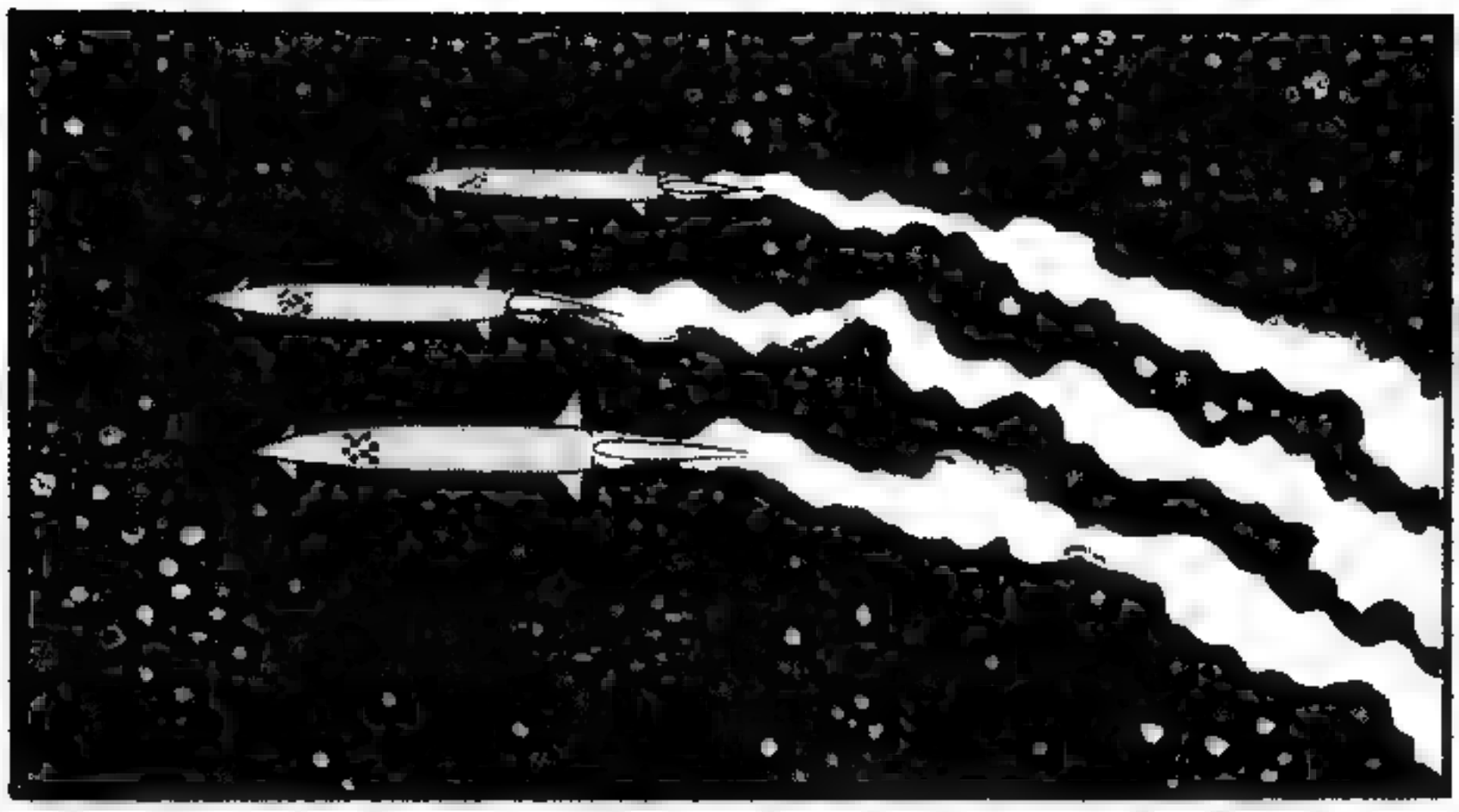
TIK

TIK

TIK

TIK

CHAK



HAH! THEY THINK THEY GOT US. GOOD CALL, 009.

YEP. YOU GUYS WERE RIGHT. THE MOON IS WELL-ARMED HUNK OF ROCK.

HURRY, LET'S GET AS FAR AWAY AS WE CAN BEFORE THE DEBRIS CLEARS.

THAT'S ABOUT SIX KILOMETERS. WE CAN GET THERE IN TEN MINUTES.

THE BASE IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT MOUNTAIN, IN THE MIDDLE OF A CRATER.

OKAY...

...WE'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT ANOTHER WAY BACK TO EARTH.

YEAH, THAT ROCKET SERVED IT'S PURPOSE...

HA HA HA! THAT'S OKAY, 006.

IT'S NOT AS EASY FOR ME, YOU KNOW.

WELL, WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SAY IS THAT I DON'T LIKE TO WALK.

...AHH, THAT'S WHY...

THERE'S NO AIR, YOUR VOICE WON'T MAKE A SOUND.

006, I CAN'T HEAR YOU. OUR COMM DEVICES ARE USELESS.

.....

BUT WE CAN'T LET THEM GO. I'LL KNOCK THEM OUT.

WELL, WE REALLY HAVE NO FURTHER USE FOR THEM... BUT THEY HAVE BEEN HELPFUL.

THIS IS THE MOON. THE GRAVITY HERE IS 1/6 OF EARTH'S... SEE?

WOW!

THEY'LL BE OUT FOR AN HOUR.

I STUNNED THEM USING OSCILLATION WAVES.

WHAT?! HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

OOP, WHAT ABOUT THESE TWO?

TWELVE CYBORGS AND THREE COMBAT ROBOTS ARE HEADED THIS WAY!

THEY'VE ALREADY FOUND US!

IT'S TOO LATE!

ALL RIGHT. WELL, LET'S GET MOVING. WE ONLY HAVE AN HOUR.

I HAVE AN IDEA!

OUR ONLY ADVANTAGE WAS THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE. WITHOUT THAT...

THE BASE WILL HAVE TIME TO PREPARE ITS DEFENSES WHILE THE CYBORGS AND ROBOTS KEEP US BUSY.

THE LONGER THIS DRAGS ON, THE MORE OF A DISADVANTAGE WE HAVE.

I'LL BE FINE.

JQ, NOT BY YOURSELF!

I'LL GO TO THE BASE MYSELF AND--

YOU THREE STAY HERE AND DEAL WITH THE CYBORGS.

THEY'RE HERE!

GOOD-BYE.

C'MON, TAKE COVER BEHIND THAT ROCK.

JQ!!

BE CARE-FUL.

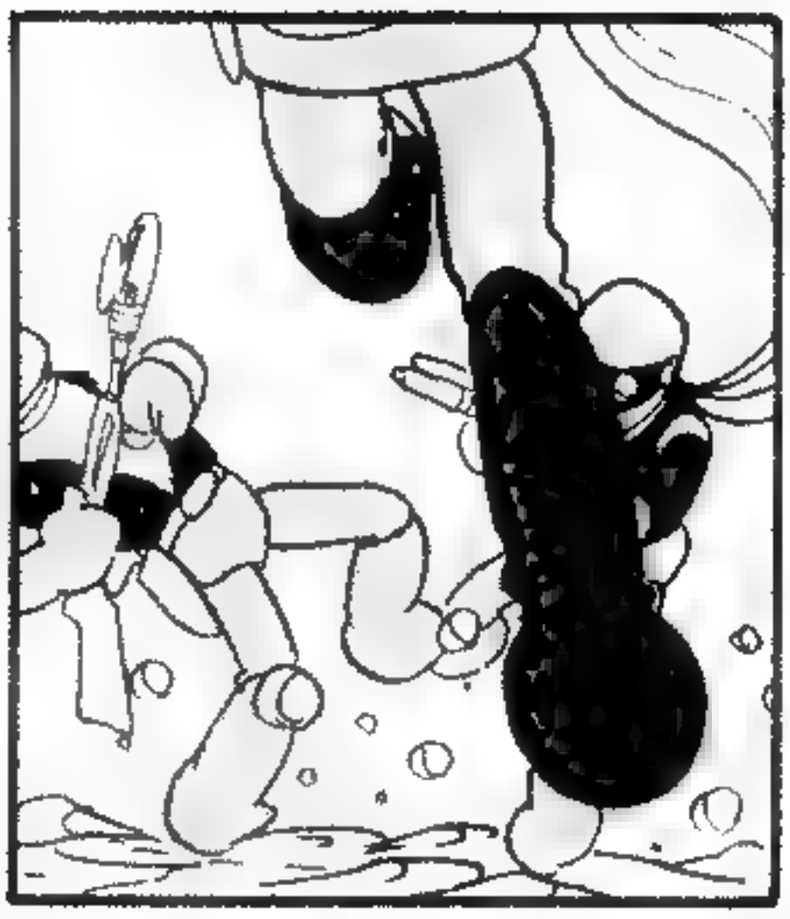
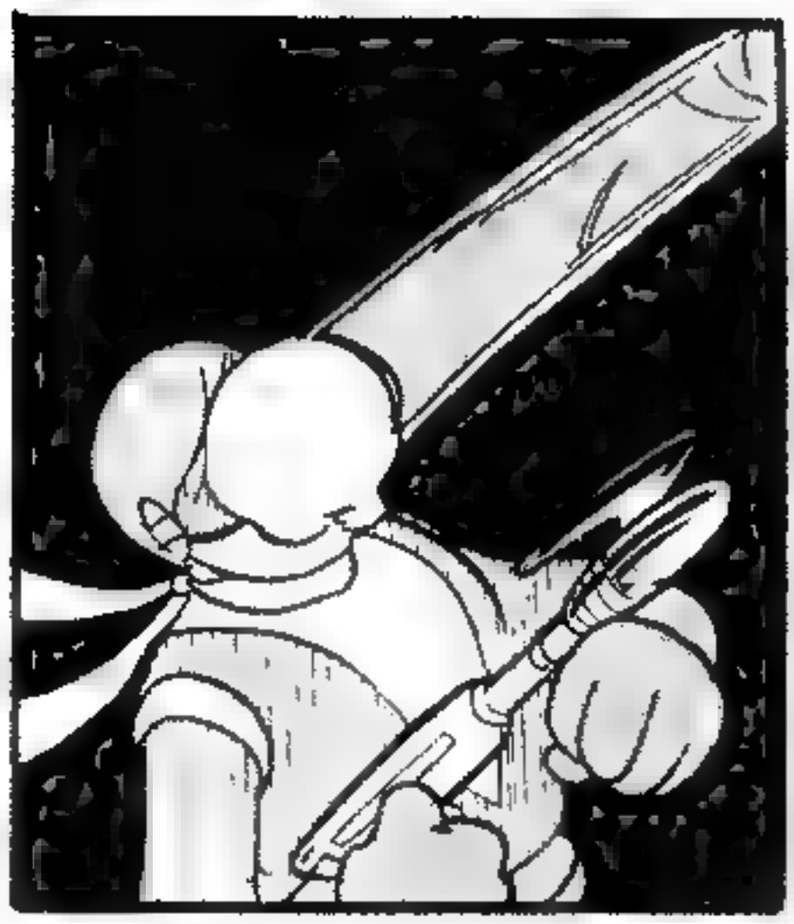
I'M GOING TO DRAW THEIR FIRE.

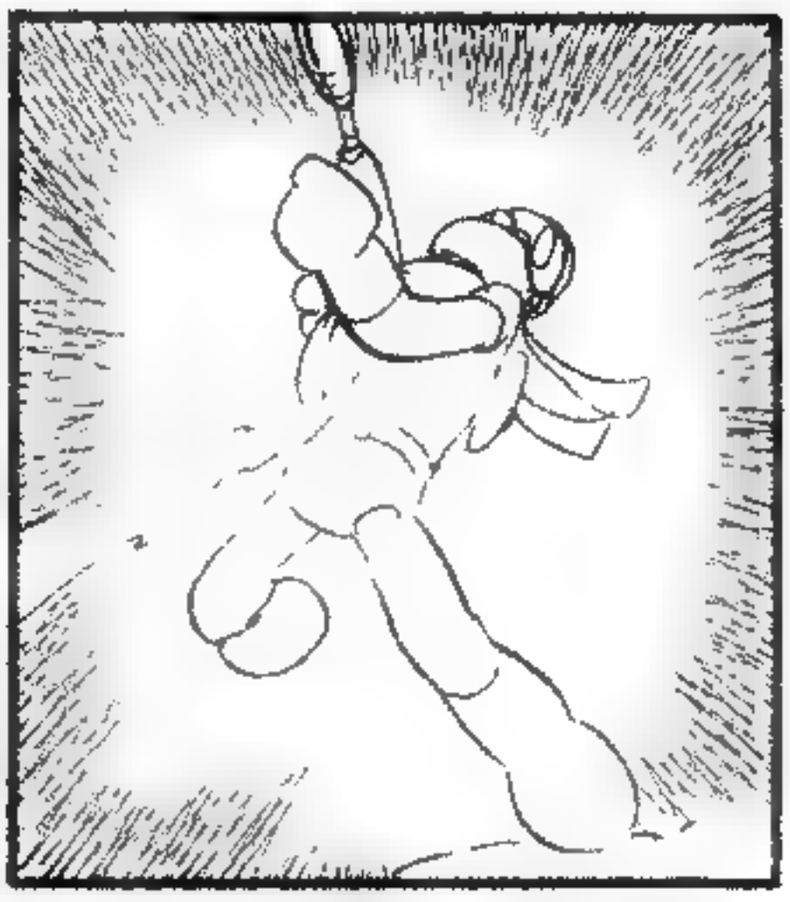
IF ANY-ONE GETS CLOSE, TAKE THEM OUT.

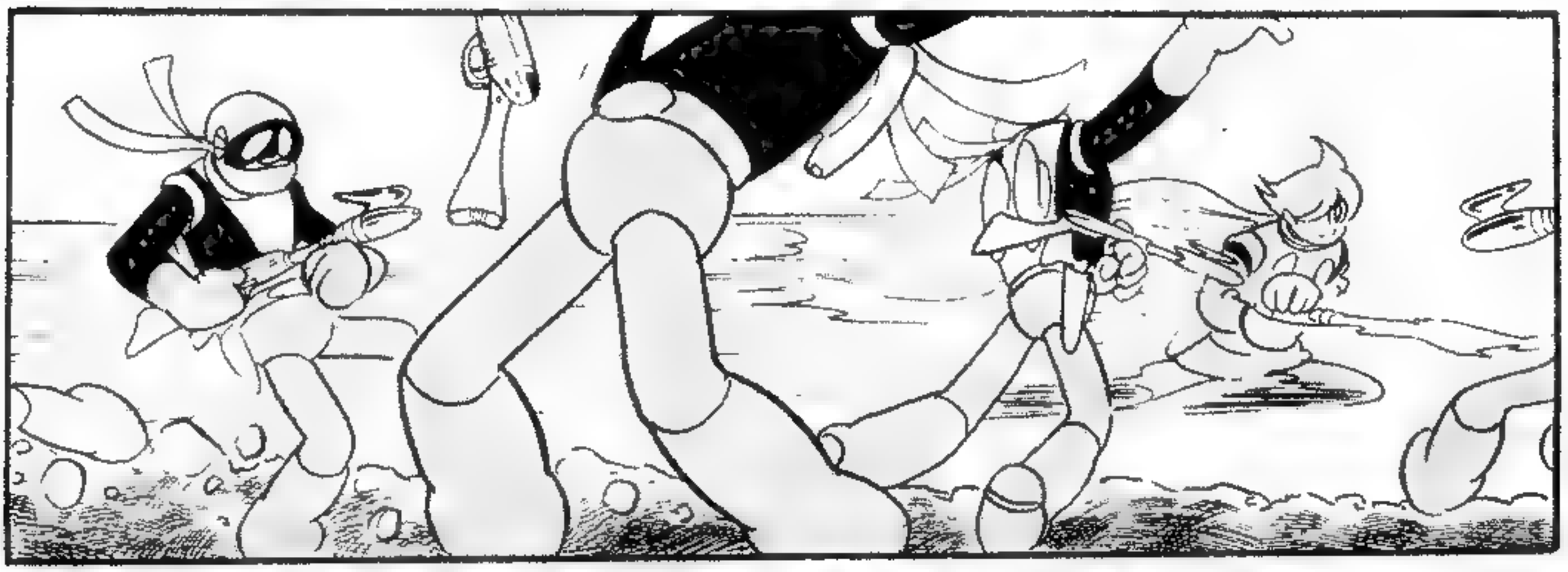
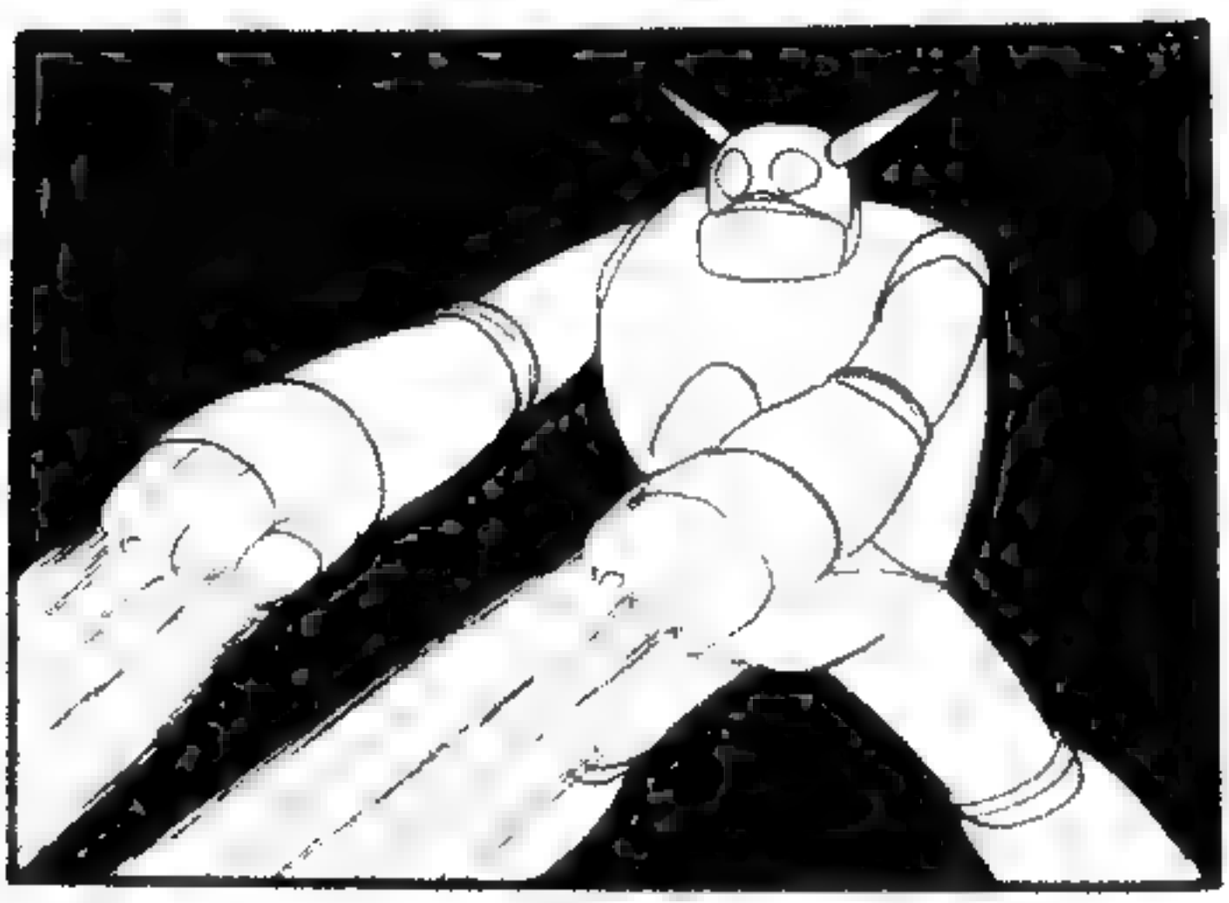
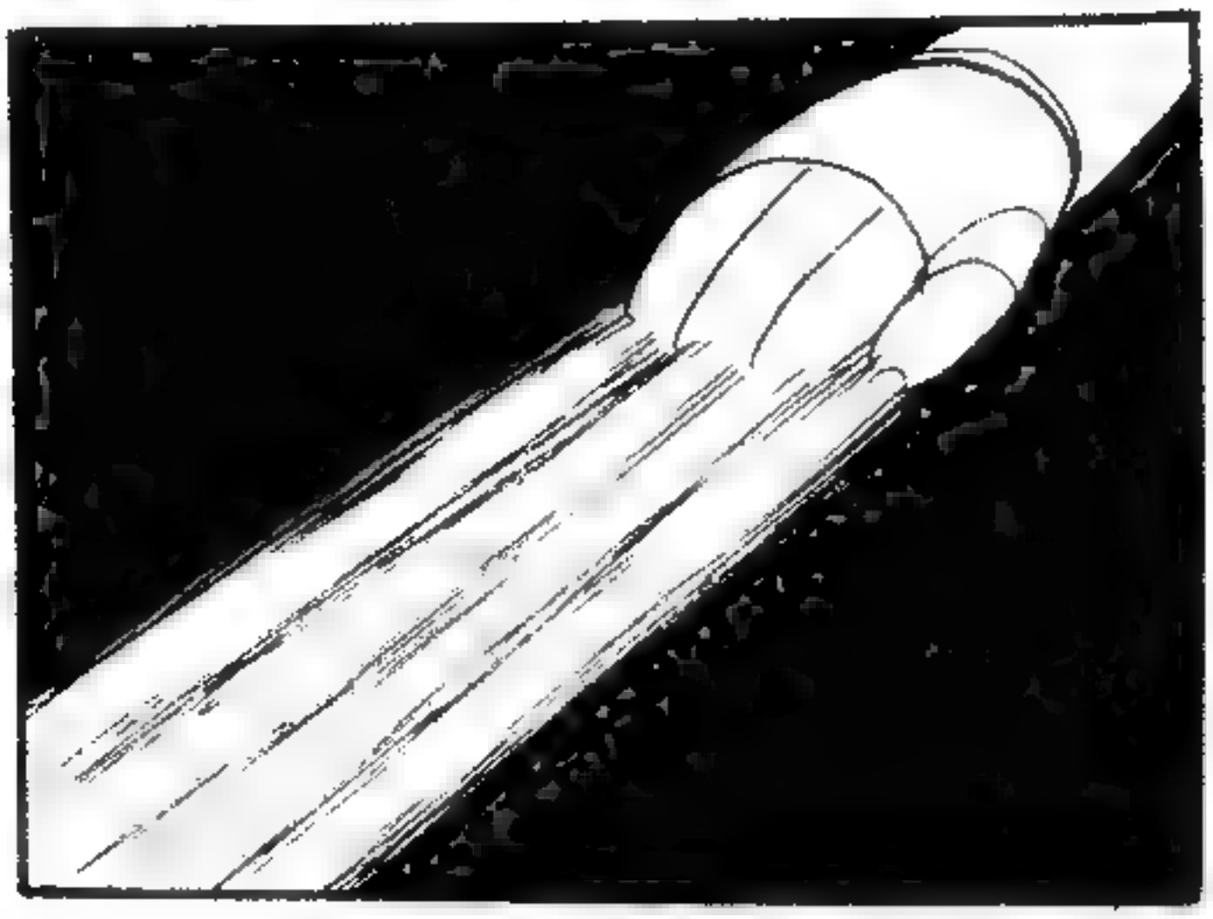
.....

AND THIS MUST BE THE CONTROL DOME.

THERE ARE FOUR MISSILE STAGING AREAS.



GOOD WORK, 009!

WOW, QUITE THE FIREWORKS.

WHAT ABOUT THE BASE?

LOOKS LIKE IT'S TAKEN CARE OF. LET'S SEE.

OH.

THEY MUST HAVE RELIED MORE ON MISSILES THAN ACTUAL GROUND TROOPS.

SOME OF THE MISSILES AND ROCKETS ARE STILL STANDING.

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THE BASE IS DESTROYED. THE CONTROL DOME IS GONE.

WHAT DO YOU SEE, JOE?

JQ REALLY DID A JOB ON THIS PLACE!

WHERE IS HE?

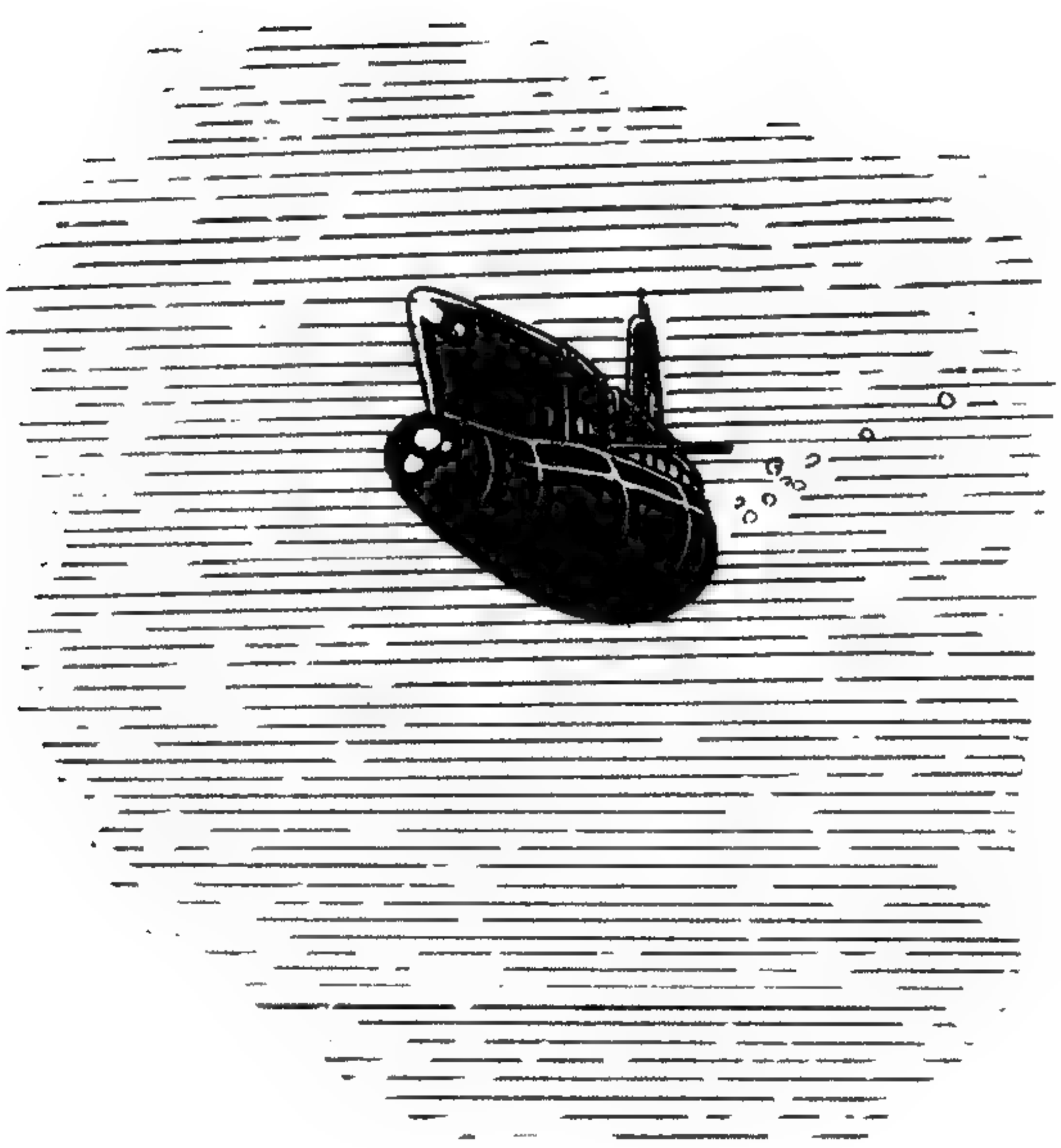
HE'S GONE.

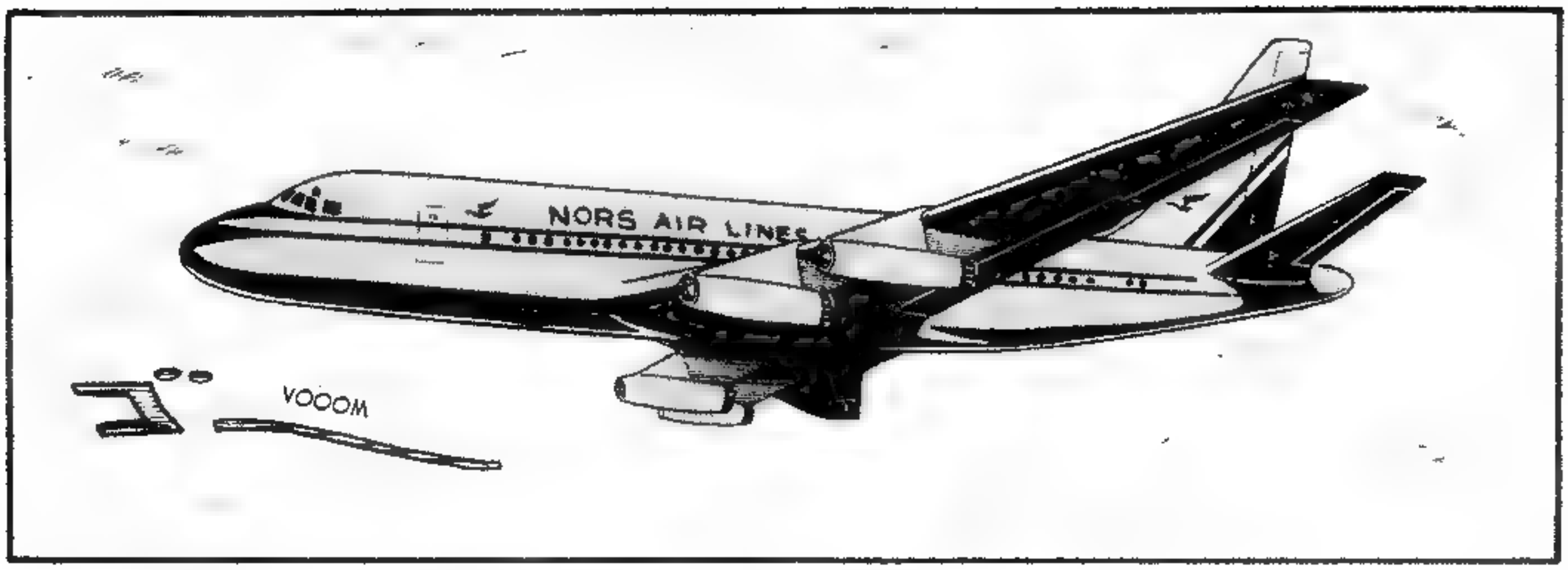
HE'LL BE MISSED.

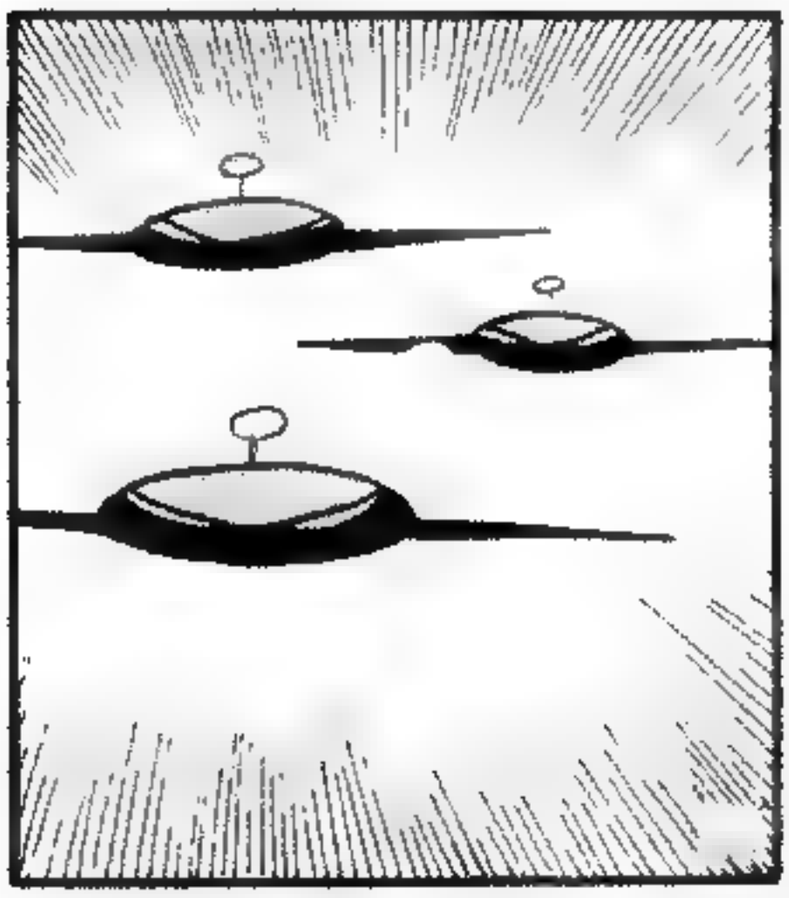
POOR JQ!!

IT LOOKS LIKE HE WAS TOO CLOSE TO THE BLAST. I CAN SEE PIECES OF HIM ALL OVER THE PLACE.

DEAD?

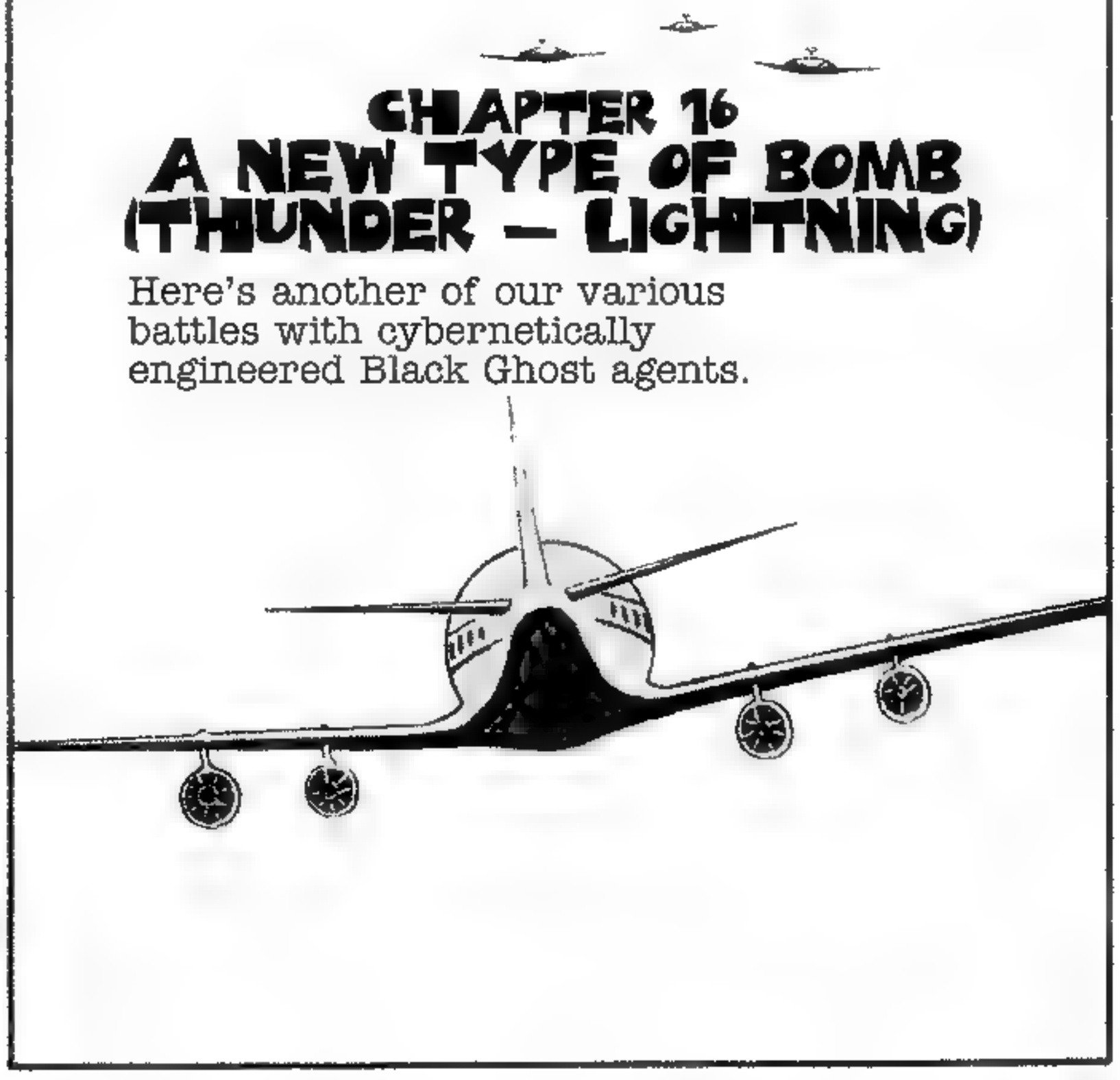


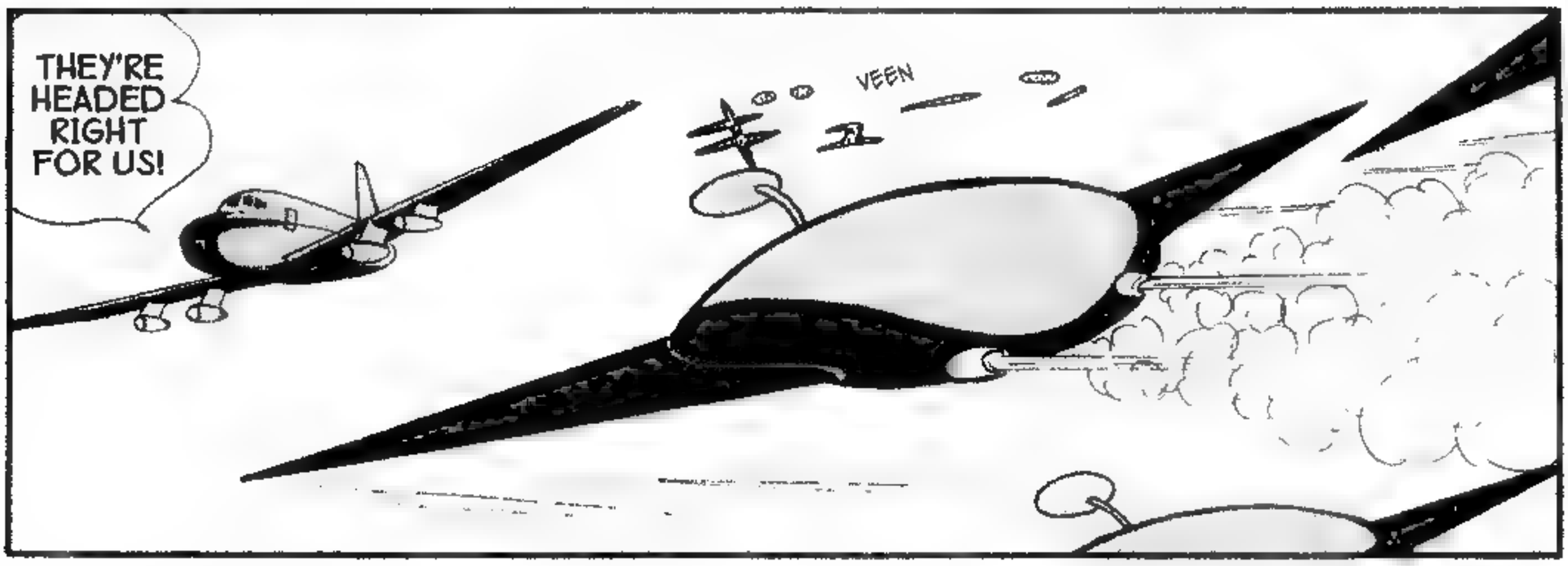




CHAPTER 16
A NEW TYPE OF BOMB (THUNDER — LIGHTNING)

Here's another of our various battles with cybernetically engineered Black Ghost agents.





SHAKE.

UWAH!

BAM

BADDA

BADDA

ZZT

AIEEEEE!!

HMM.

I'VE BEEN SENT TO PROTECT YOU.

WHO WANTS TO KNOW?

DOC-TOR KAMI-NARI.

PLEASE REMAIN CALM.

BAM

WHAM

WHAT IN BLAZES?!

SMASH

I'M NO LONGER AN AGENT OF THE BLACK GHOST.

BOOM

SHUUU

WAH!

GRAA

NUMBER C-11 HAS ACCOMPLISHED HIS MISSION.

I AM NUMBER C-11. MY MISSION WAS TO DESTROY YOU.

WHO ORDERED THE MISSION?

THE BLACK GHOST!

NUMBER C-11, DO YOU READ ME.

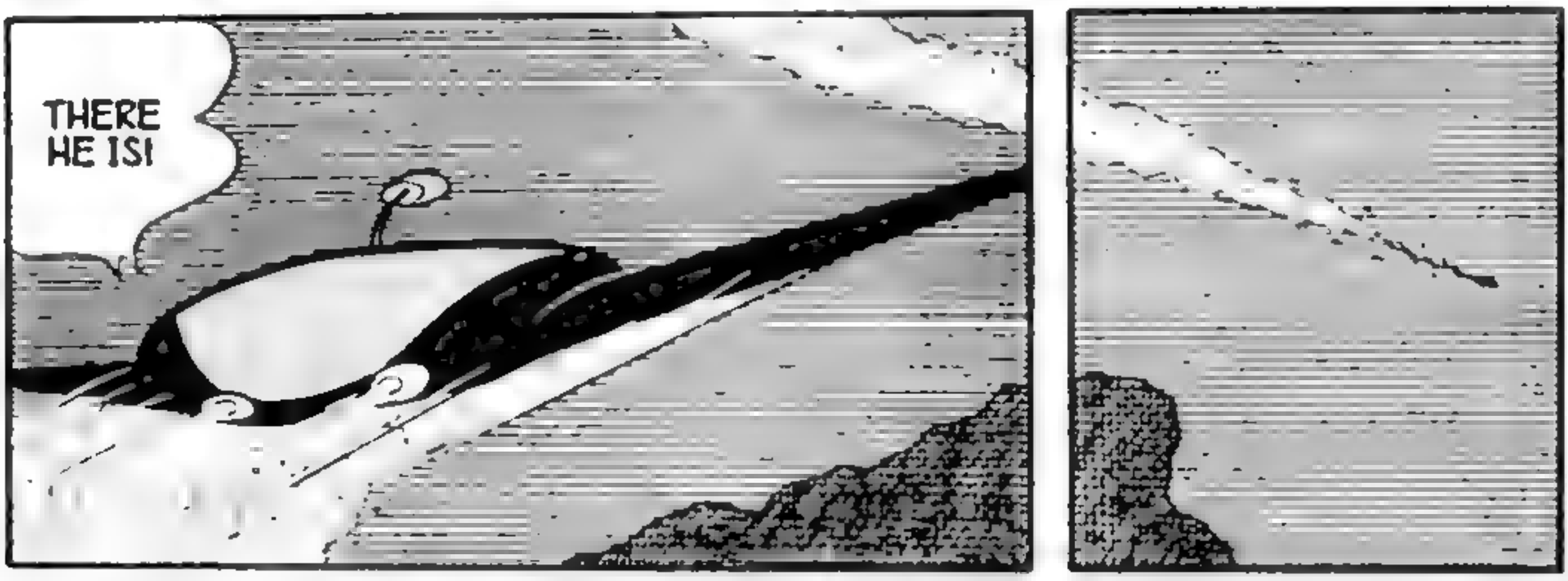
PLEASE BRACE YOURSELF, DOCTOR.

CRASH

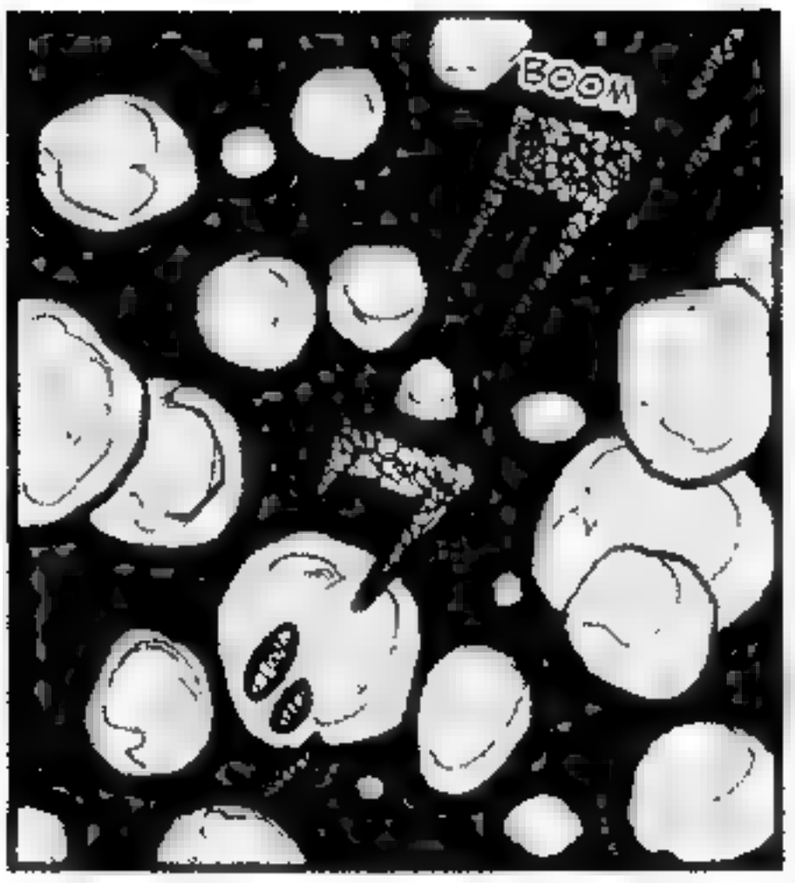
BRING US THE DOCTOR!

C-11! YOU ARE PRESENTLY OFF COURSE. RETURN TO FORMATION AT ONCE!

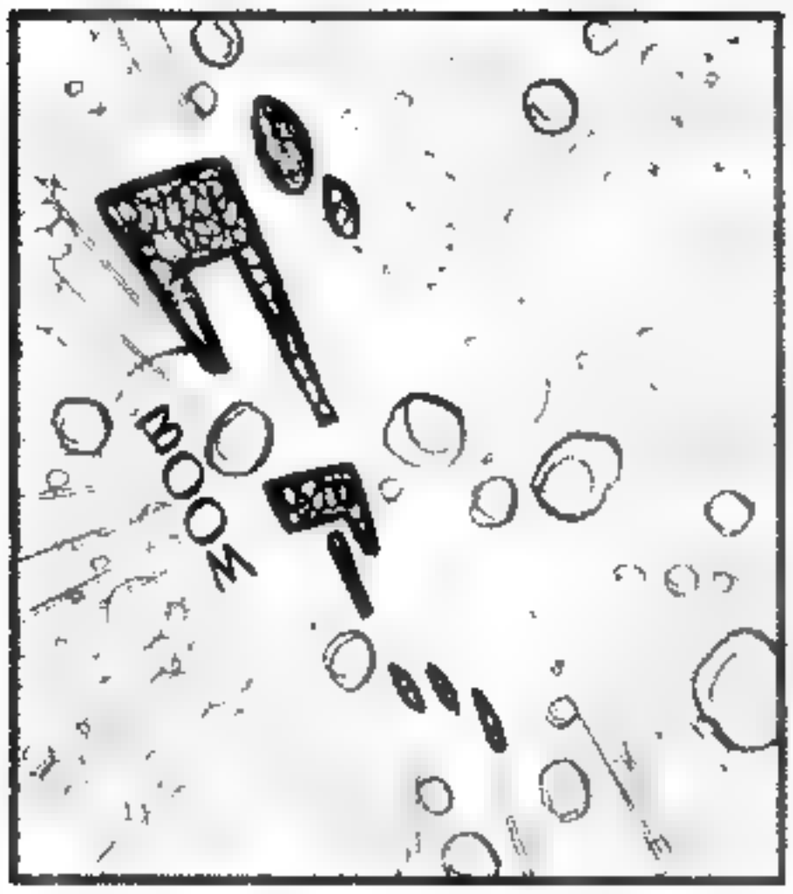
DA
DA
DA
DA
BADDA
BADDA
C-11, I ORDER YOU TO RELEASE THE DOCTOR TO US!
SPLASH
YOU TRAITOR!!
ZAA
WHERE IS HE?
DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE.

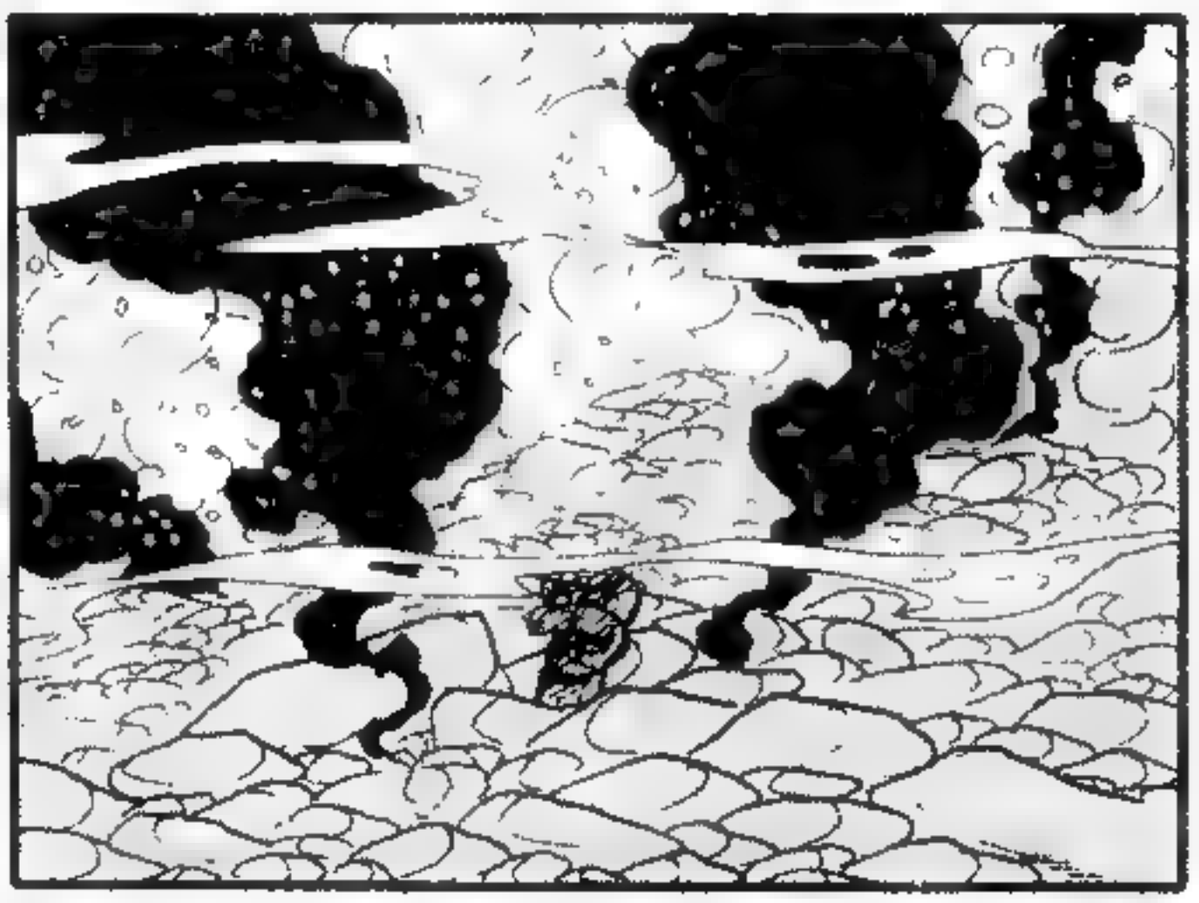

THERE HE IS!

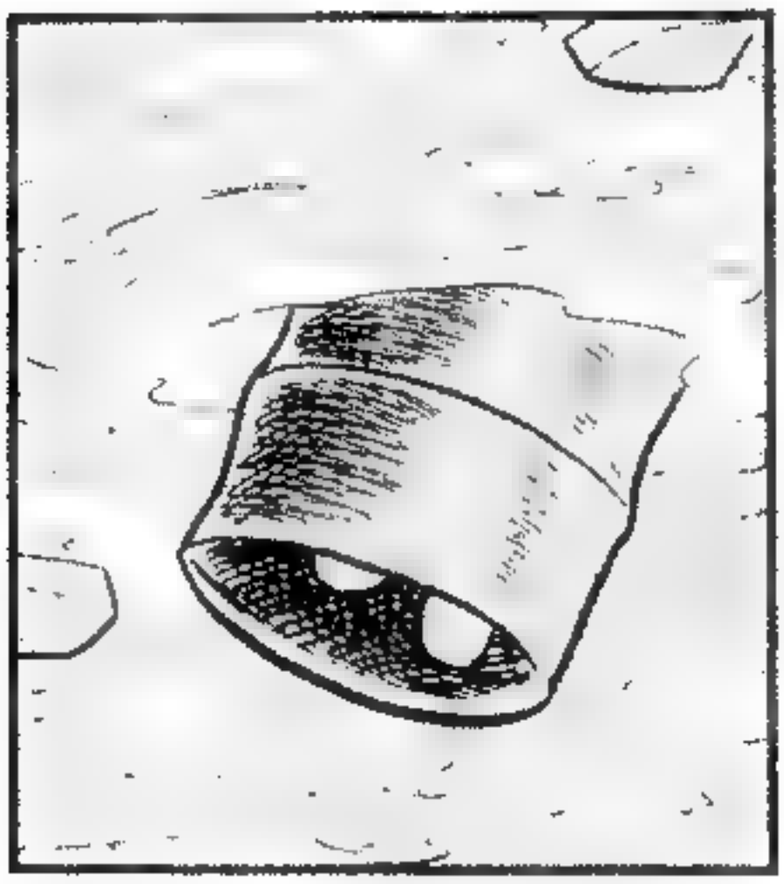
BUT THE DOCTOR ISN'T WITH HIM.


BOOM

BOOM


BOOM





AND HE COULD HAVE NEVER SURVIVED UNDERWATER FOR THIS LONG...
HE'S NOT HERE.

HE'S GONE.

HAH HA HA!

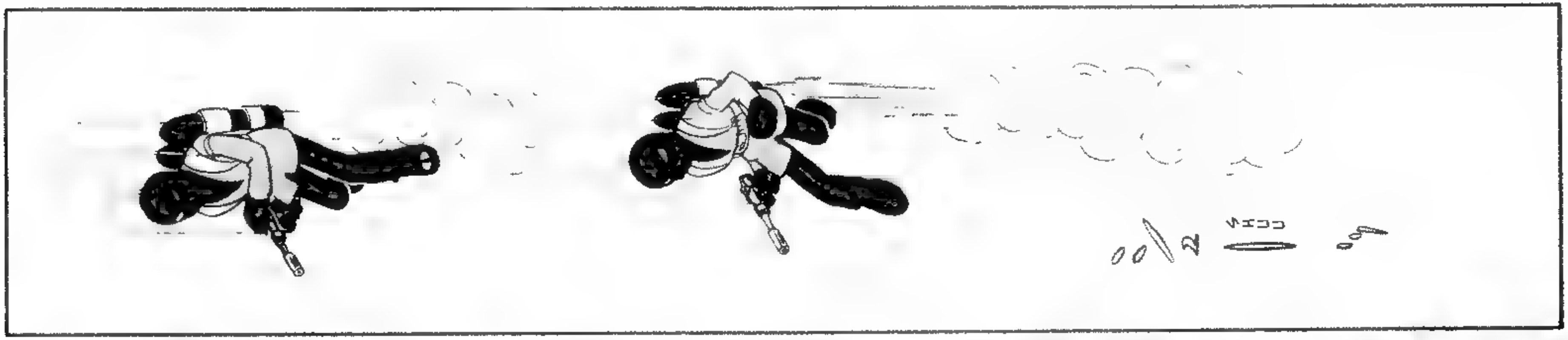
VEEN

SPLASH

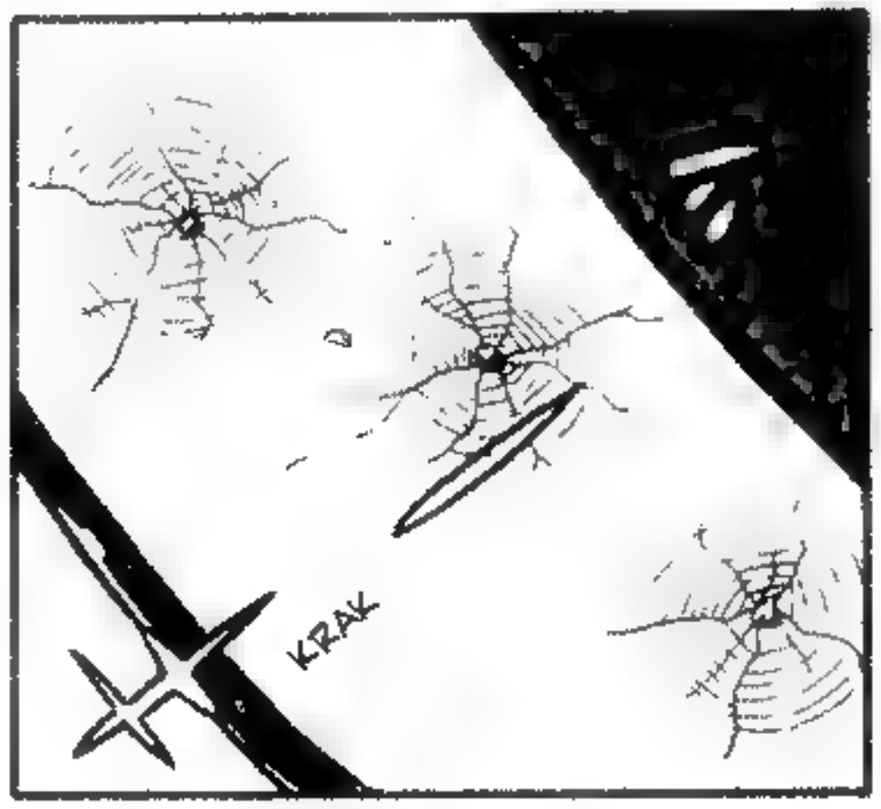
ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESSES, THE KIDNAPPERS WERE HEAVILY ARMED AND WORE ROCKET PACKS.

COINCIDENTALLY, YUKA KAMINARI, DOCTOR KAMINARI'S GRANDDAUGHTER, WAS ABDUCTED FROM HIGHWAY SIX AT THREE O' CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON.

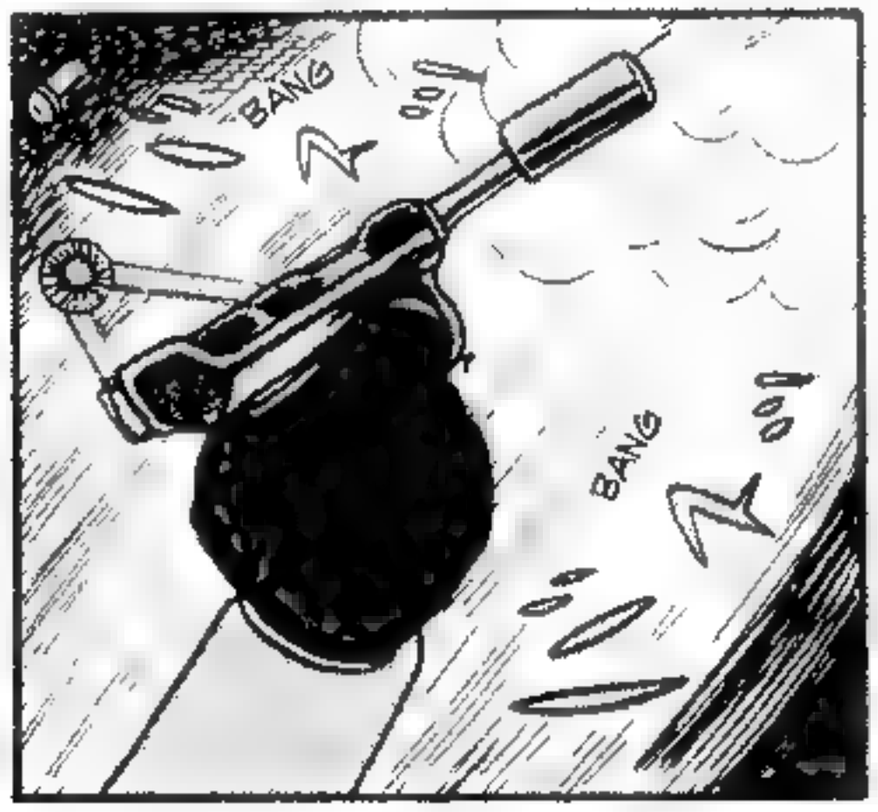
A NORTH AIRLINE JET LINER FROM AMERICA CARRYING DOCTOR GORO KAMINARI HOME IS CURRENTLY UNACCOUNTED FOR...

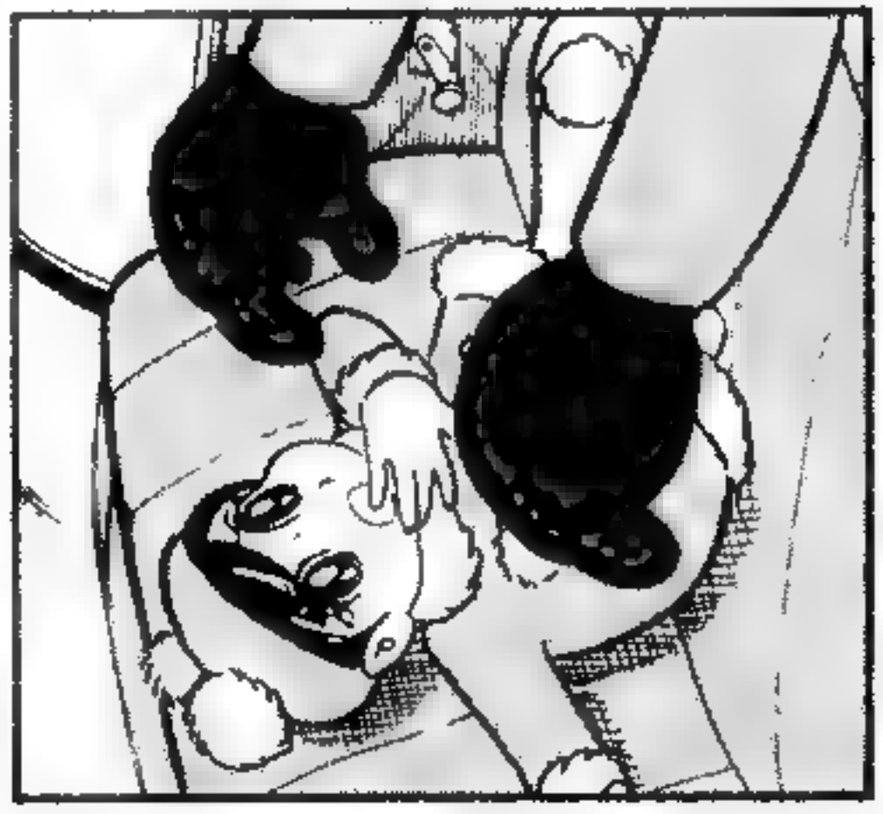

VROOM

VROOM
VROOM


KRAK

BAM!


BANG
BANG



WHAT? DR. KAMINARI'S PLANE CRASHED?!

VUUM

VUUM

IS DR. KAMINARI SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

DR. GILMORE ...

HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER WAS AB-DUCTED.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL.

JOLT

HE WAS WORKING ON SOME DREADFUL WEAPON AND SO GARNERED THE NICKNAME "THUNDER AND LIGHTNING."

I'VE NEVER MET HIM PERSONALLY, BUT DR. KAMINARI IS QUITE FAMOUS.

DO

DO

DO

DO

DO

SO, ANOTHER BRAIN BOX NICKED AWAY TO BUILD KILLING MACHINES!

JUST THE KIND OF MIND RIPE FOR EXPLOITATION.

SO, HE'S APTLY NAMED, YOU SEE.

TOGETHER, THEY CREATE A MASSIVE ELECTRIC CURRENT THAT MAKES THE VERY SKY EXPLODE!

NEAR-MICROSCOPIC, SNOWFLAKE-SHAPED NANO-MACHINES THAT EFFUSE INTO THE SKY.

IT IS A DEADLY DEVICE.

...KIDNAP HER.

SO THEY...

...BUT, OF COURSE, HE WOULD NEVER PUT HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER AT RISK.

...AND THE DOCTOR WOULD NOT HAND IT OVER EVEN IF IT MEANT HIS LIFE...

OBVIOUSLY, THAT TECHNOLOGY IS VERY VALUABLE...

...IT'S THE BLACK GHOST!

...WE ALL KNOW...

YES, DR. GILMORE...

OH, DON'T BE SO NAIVE. WE ALL KNOW WHO'S CAPABLE OF SUCH INHUMANITY.

WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?

HE MUST HAVE BEEN NEAR JAPAN, AT LEAST.

WAIT, WAIT A SECOND...

BUT WHERE DO WE START LOOKING?

SO WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO GET DR. KAMINARI BACK!

WE CAN'T LET THEM GET A HOLD OF SUCH A DESTRUC-TIVE WEAPON.

OKAY.

GIVE ME THAT MAP.

I BELIEVE I CAN ASCERTAIN WHERE BLACK GHOST WOULD BUILD A SECRET BASE.

NOT REALLY. HOW-EVER...

DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHERE HE MIGHT BE BY LOOKING AT THIS MAP?

VUUM

VUUM

IF INDEED THEY HAVE HIM...

...HE SHOULD BE THERE.

YEAH?

HEY, 009.

IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE SOME RECON DOLPHINS ON OUR TAIL.

BUT WE SHOULD STILL DEAL WITH THIS SITUATION.

WE MUST BE GETTING CLOSE.

GOOD!

THERE THEY ARE!

PUSH

WE CAN'T HAVE THEM REPORT BACK.

DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!

I'M ON IT!

SHUU

WHAM

GRAB

WHUP

KLANK

TAKE THEM INSIDE. WE CAN PUMP THEM FOR INFOR-MATION.

THE BASE SHOULD BE RIGHT HERE.

BLUB BLUB BLUB BLUB

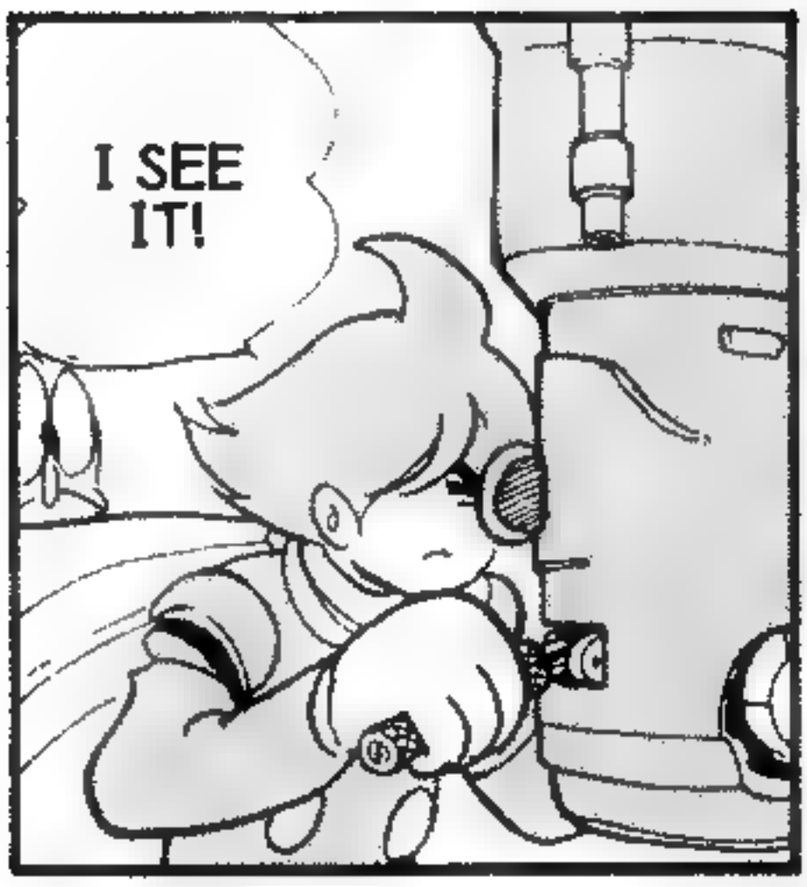
SPLASH

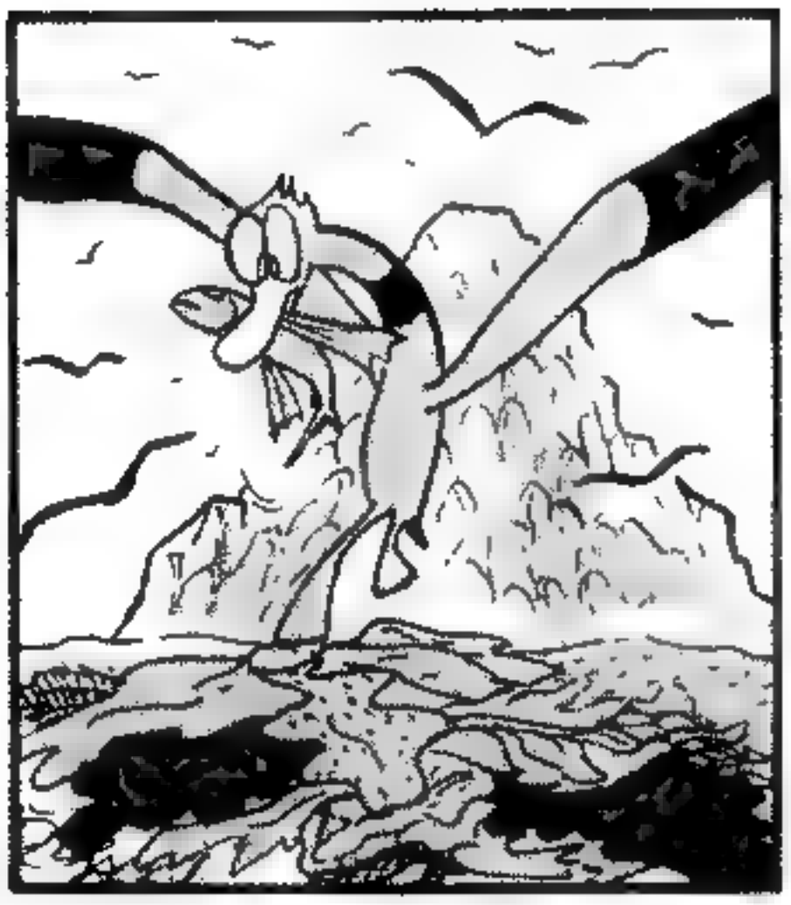
CHOMP

THEY ALSO INFORMED US OF A COMPLEX DEFENSE SYSTEM THAT EXPANDS TO A TWO-MILE RADIUS AROUND THE ISLAND.

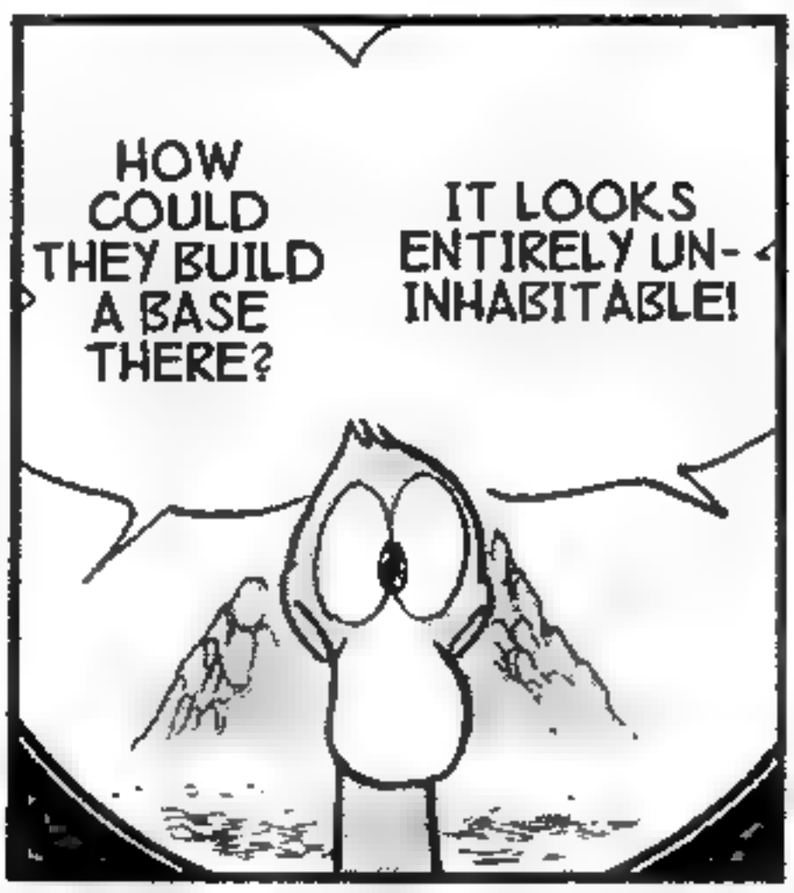
AND THAT CORRES-PONDS WITH WHAT WE GOT OUT OF THE DOLPHINS.

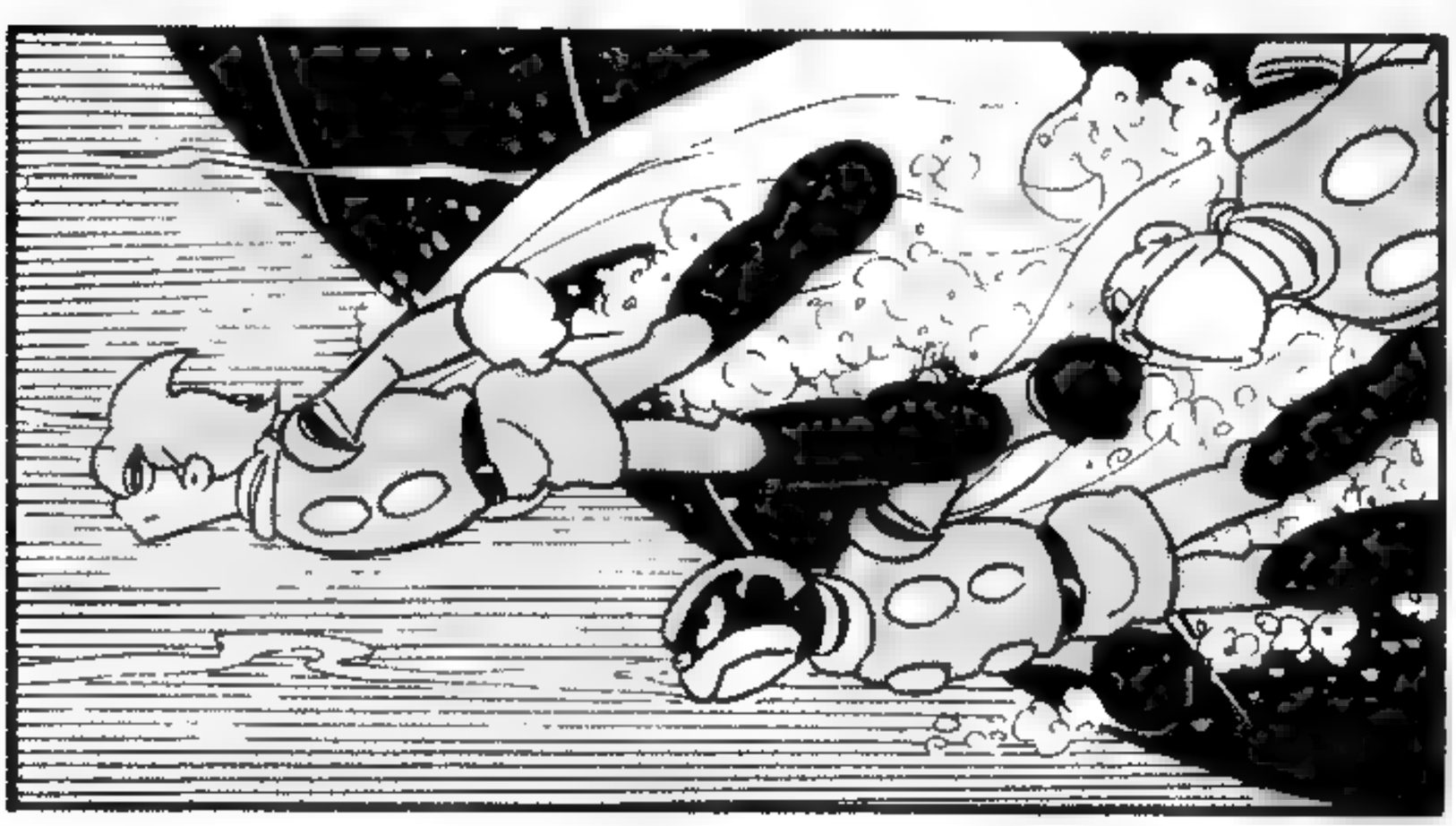
IT'LL TAKE A MIRACLE JUST TO MAKE IT TO THE BASE.

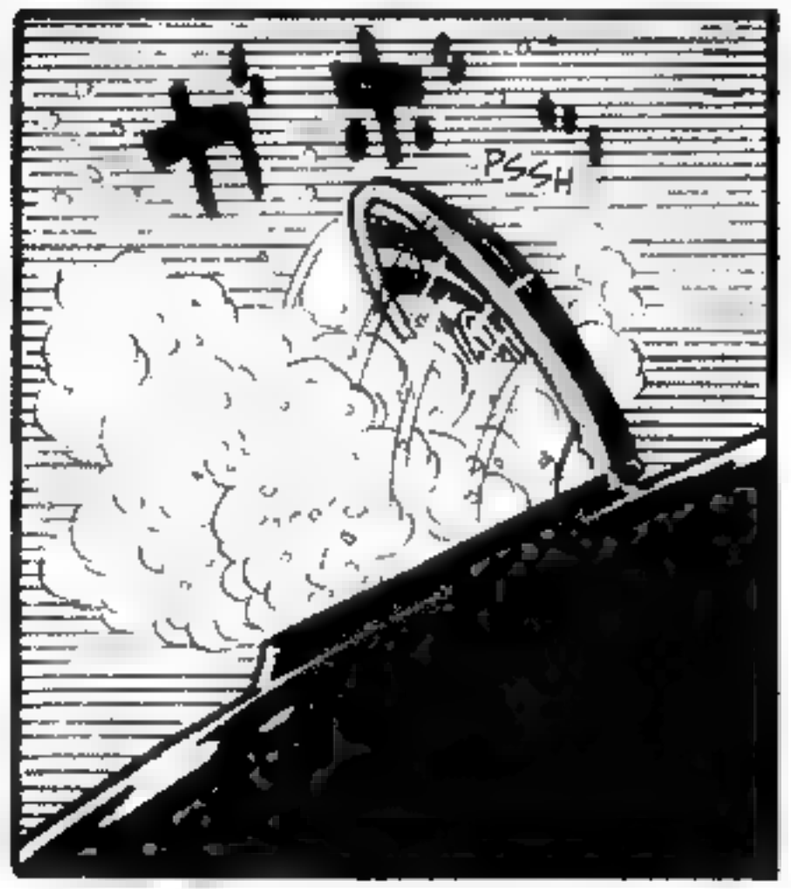

I SEE IT!

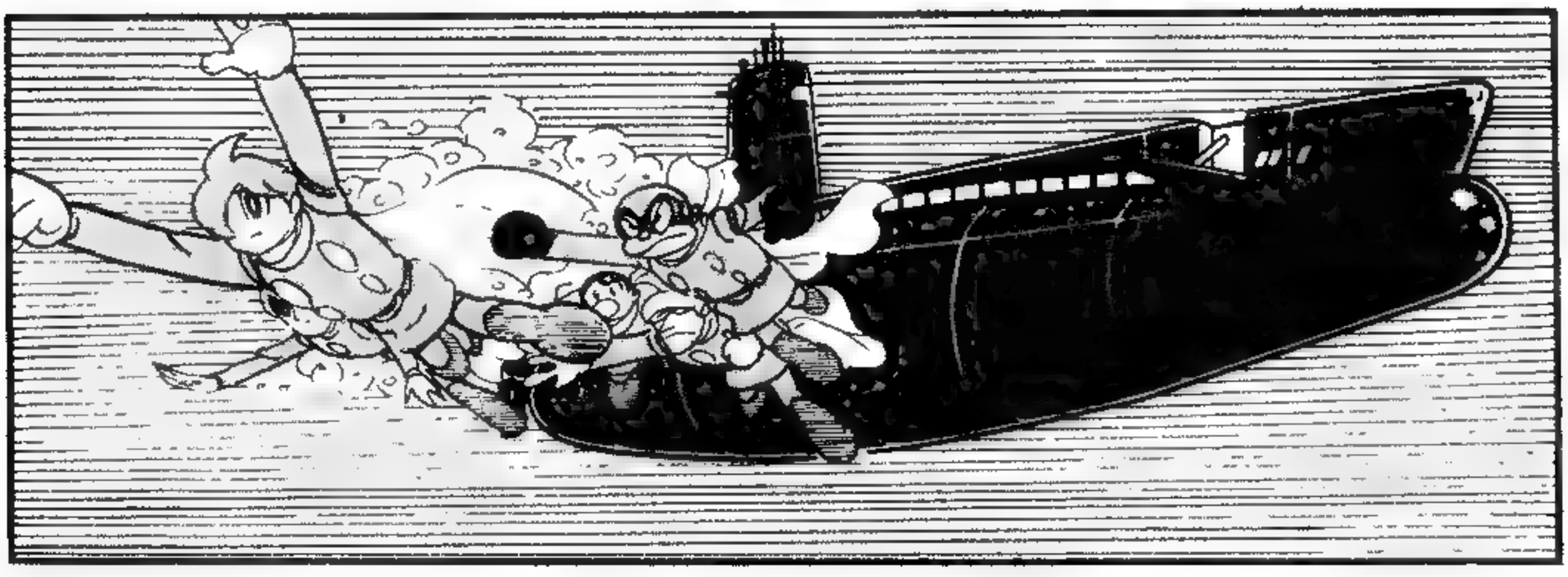


LET'S GET CLOSER.


HOW COULD THEY BUILD A BASE THERE?
IT LOOKS ENTIRELY UN-INHABITABLE!




PSSH



009.

MORE DOLPHINS!

THE COAST IS CLEAR!

009! THAT SHELL!!

WAIT.

DID IT DETECT US?

IT'S A PERI-METER SENSOR.

MINES!

BUT LOOK AHEAD OF US.

I DON'T THINK SO. THE ISLAND IS STILL QUIET.

BE CAREFUL, THOSE MINES WILL EXPLODE AT THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH.

OVER THERE...

WE MADE IT. NOW WE NEED A WAY IN.

THAT CREVICE MAY LEAD TO THE INTERIOR.

BUT...

LET'S GO.

STEP BACK. I'LL GET US IN.

A WALL?

THE WALL IS ABOUT A METER THICK.

IT'S A DEAD END.

IT'S CLEAR!

003, ANY SIGN OF GUARDS?

GOOD WORK!

FWOM

THE DOCTOR IS ABOVE US A FEW HUNDRED FEET SURROUNDED BY GUARDS AND SOME KIND OF MACHINE.

THEY'RE HERE.

WAIT...

NO GUARDS ?

OKAY, LET'S...

THE ENTIRE CAVERN IS EMPTY.

YOU GUYS GO RESCUE THE DOCTOR.

I'LL GET HER!

DOWN THAT HALLWAY. SHE'S OFF TO THE RIGHT.

HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER IS DOWN HERE.

ALL RIGHT, 003, DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GET TO THE CONTROL ROOM?

BE CAREFUL, 004! SECURITY IS EVERY-WHERE!

LET'S EACH WISH US LUCK!

NO KIDDING! IF THEY SPOT US, WE'RE COOKED.

RIGHT THIS WAY, BUT IT'S HEAVILY GUARDED.

HUH?

WAIT, 009.

I'LL RIP 'EM APART WITH MY BARE HANDS!

LET'S GET 'EM!

OKAY, YOU GUYS READY?

LET'S STRIKE QUICKLY.

WHO'S THAT?!

KAAN KAAN

HEY.

KAAN KAAN KAAN KAAN

JUST REMEMBER, STRIKE QUICKLY.

I'LL CREATE A DIVERSION AND GIVE YOU TIME TO GET TO THE DOCTOR.

OPEN FIRE!

TMP TMP TMP

STOP HIM!

WEE-OO WEE-OO

BNNT BNNT

I DIDN'T THINK THIS WOULD BE SO EASY.

HMMPH! PIECE OF CAKE.

...AN ENTIRE CACHE OF GUNPOWDER!

LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE...

WEE

AHA!!

WEE

DAMN, IT'S THE ALARM!

TMP
TMP
TMP
LET'S SPLIT UP.
TMP
TMP
TMP
WEE-OO
THE ALARM!
WE MUST BE UNDER ATTACK!
WEE-OO
HUH?
Click
OH NO, THEY SAW US!
SHUU
ECHS
SHUU
I'M GOING AFTER THE DOCTOR. ACCELE-RATE!!

007!

SHHK

DON'T FOR-GET ME.

YOU'RE PRETTY QUICK THERE, 002.

HEY.

SHUU

WHERE'S THE DOCTOR?

YOU HAVE NO SHAME.

LET'S GO GET 'EM, POP!

THAT'S RIGHT!

SHHK

HE'S IN THAT FORTRESS.

AND THOSE CATS LOOK READY TO BLOW US AWAY.

DO

DO

NO. THE GOOD DOCTOR HAS THROW THE SWITCH ON HIS MACHINE.

IT STARTED SNOWING.

DO DO DO DO DO DO DO DO DO DO

AND IT'S SHOW TIME.

BADDA BADDA BADDA

DUUM DO DO DO DO

TMP

GYA!

BZZT

SHUU

ZZT

CHOP

OOP

GUH.

YAAH!

WHOK

HMM...

BAM

POW

HAH HAH! KNOCKED OUT COLD BY A SNOWMAN!

UNH...

WE'LL TAKE THEM OUT FROM THE SKY.

PSSH

TAKE THE HIGH GROUND.

PSSH

UGH.

THOK

B-BASTARD!

BLAM

BLAM

WAH!

OOPS! BETTER WATCH YOUR HEAD!

WHAK

KAPAA

PUSH

COME ON, GUYS! I HAVEN'T EVEN BROKEN A SWEAT.

WHOK

...THEY STAY DOWN.

WHAK

...AND I'LL MAKE SURE...

YOU KNOCK 'EM DOWN...

UNH...

CHAK

IT'S YOUR TURN, 002.

HUH?

YOU GET INSIDE.

BADDA BADDA

ALMOST.

BADDA

BADDA

OKAY!

UNH...

HURRY! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF THE SNOW!!

CHAK

WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT!!

OOO

BZZT

CRACK

KABOOM

CRACK

BAM

CRACK

BAM

CRACK

RUMBLE

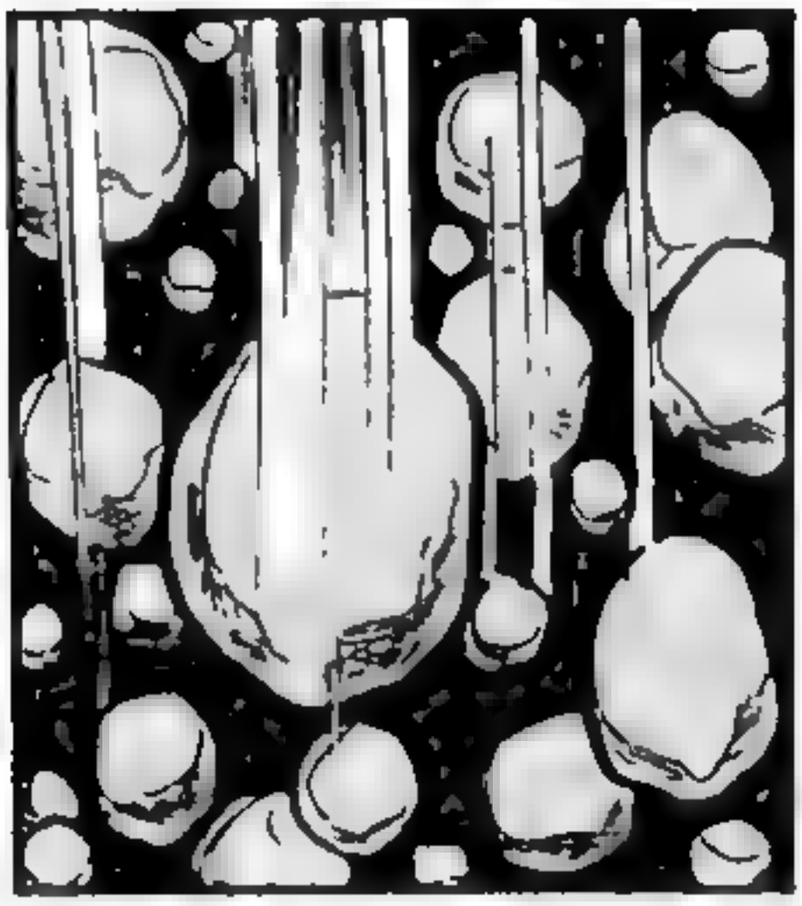
ZZ-O

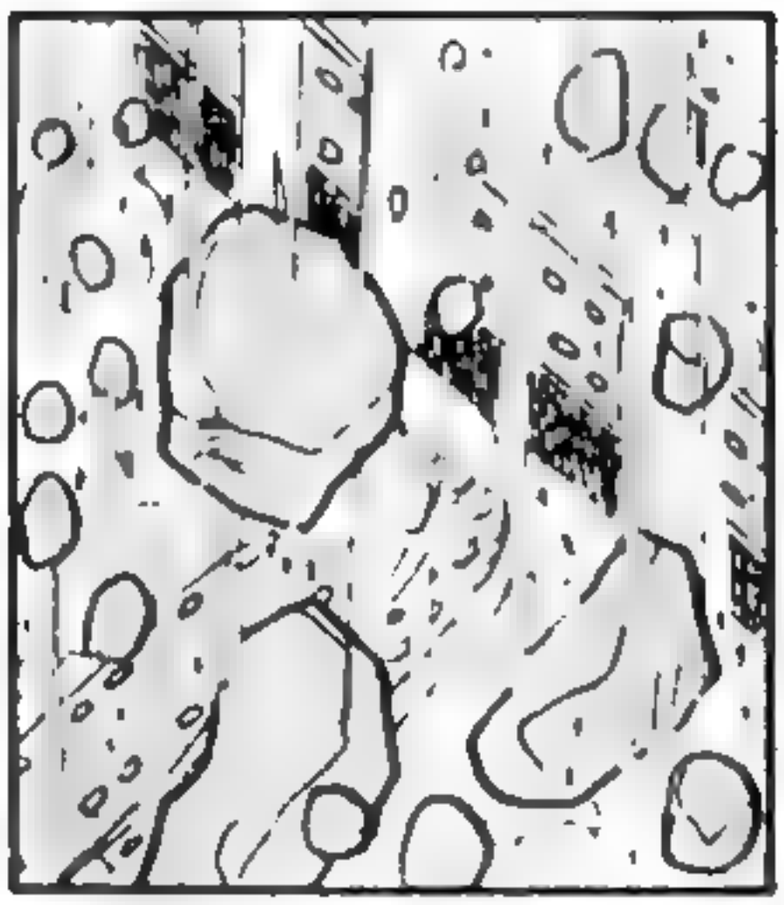
HUH?

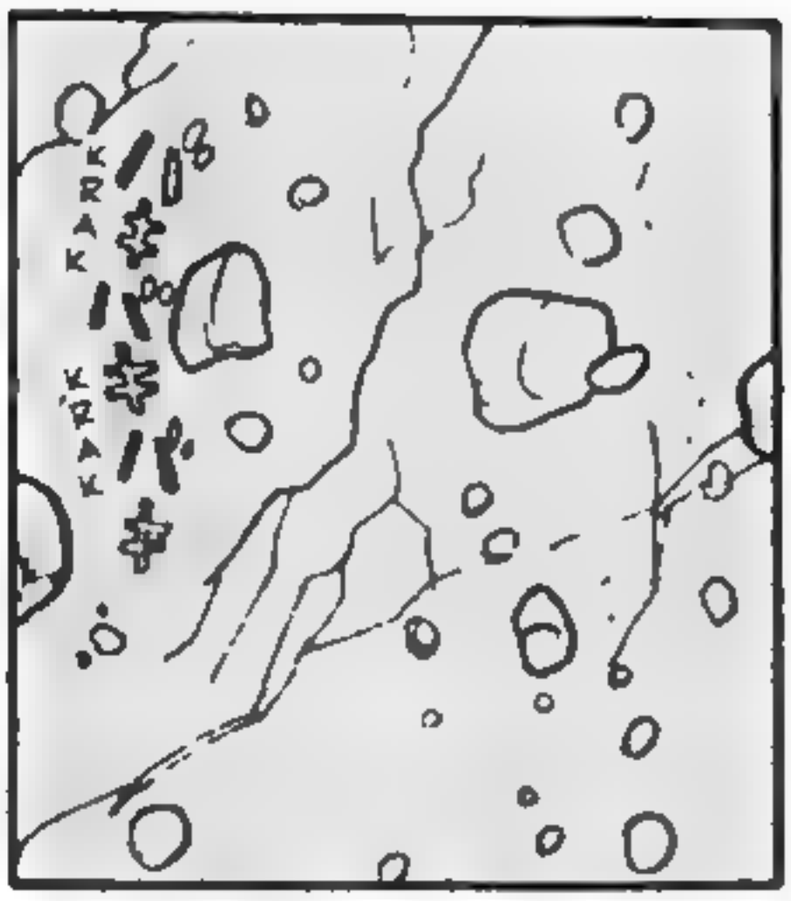
THAT COULD HAVE BEEN US IF WE WEREN'T PART MACHINE!

...DIS-INTEGRATED INTO THE AIR.

WOW! EVERYONE...






KRAK
KRAK

BOOM
BOOM

I DIDN'T SEE THAT SECOND EXPLOSION COMING.

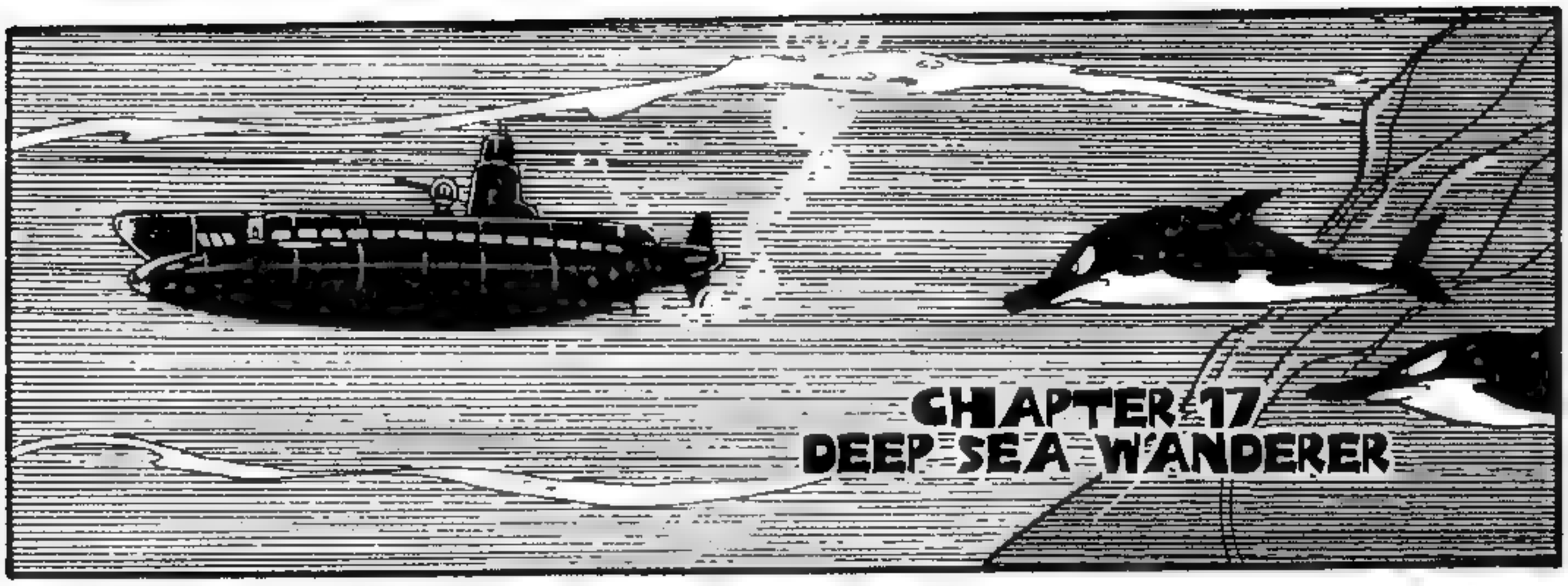
WHAT, THAT WAS YOU, 004?

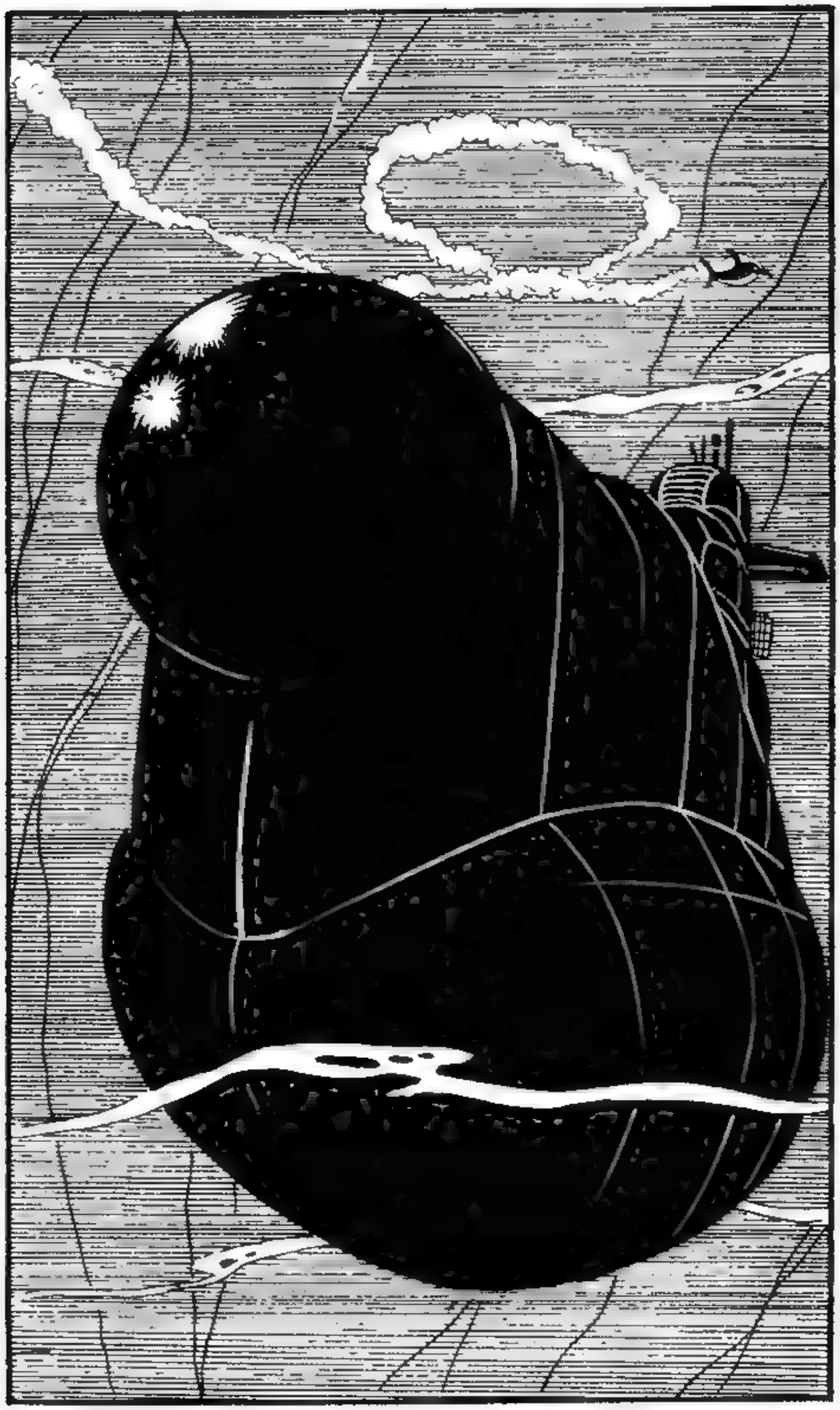
...THEN I SET OFF ALL THE GUNPOWDER AND THE WHOLE PLACE EXPLODED!

BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO PUT THAT BRILLIANT MIND TO WORK ON CREATING PEACE RATHER THAN DESTRUCTION.

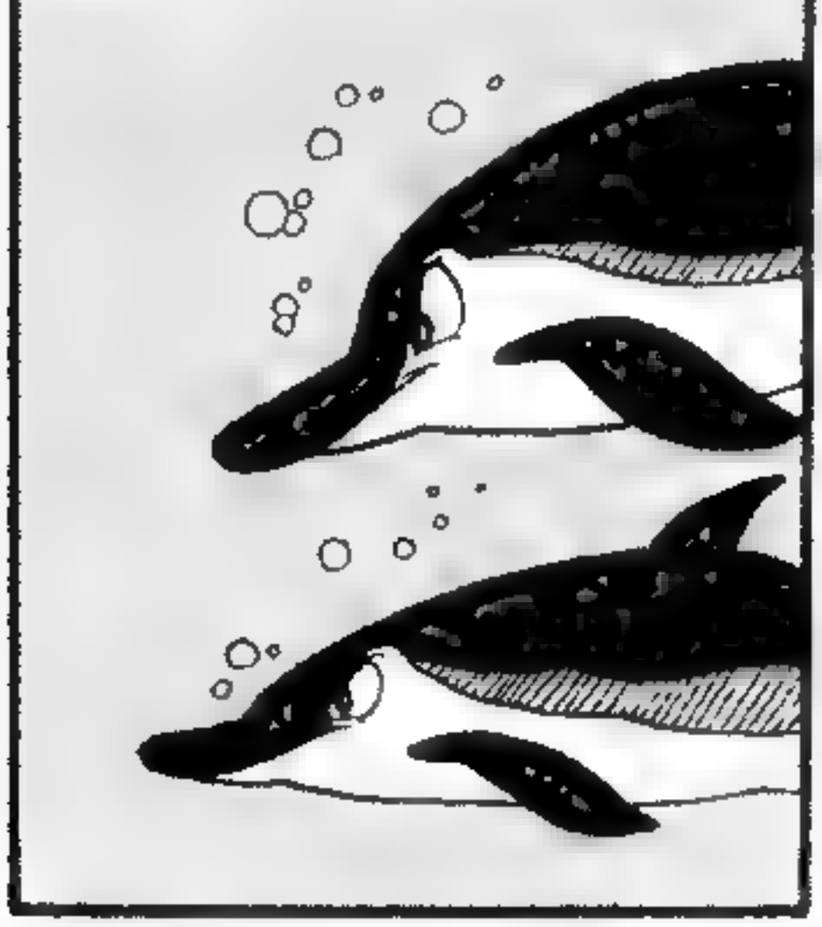
BRILLIANT IDEA.

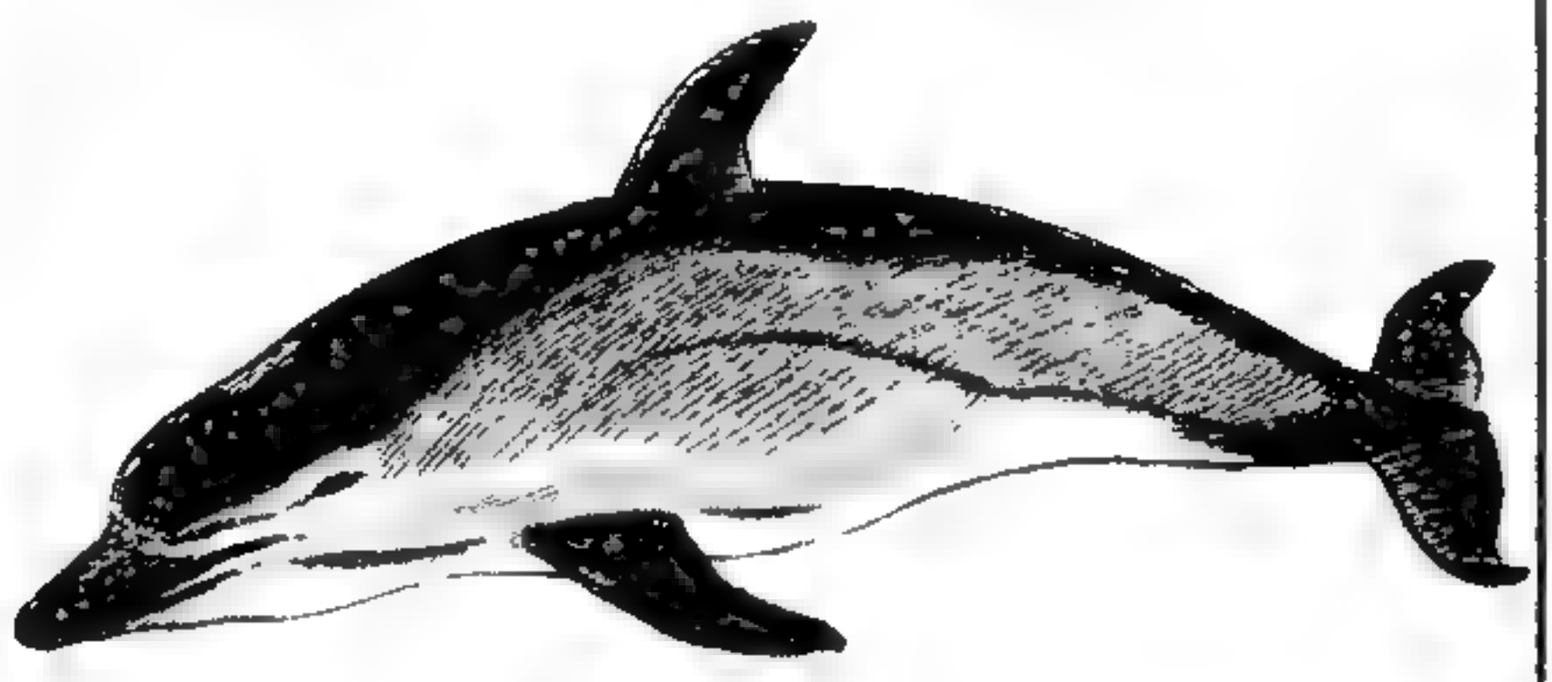
MY PROTOTYPE WASN'T READY YET, BUT I NEED SOMETHING OR THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED MY GRANDDAUGHTER. SO I USED GUNPOWDER TO CREATE AN EXPLOSION.


CHAPTER 17
DEEP SEA WANDERER

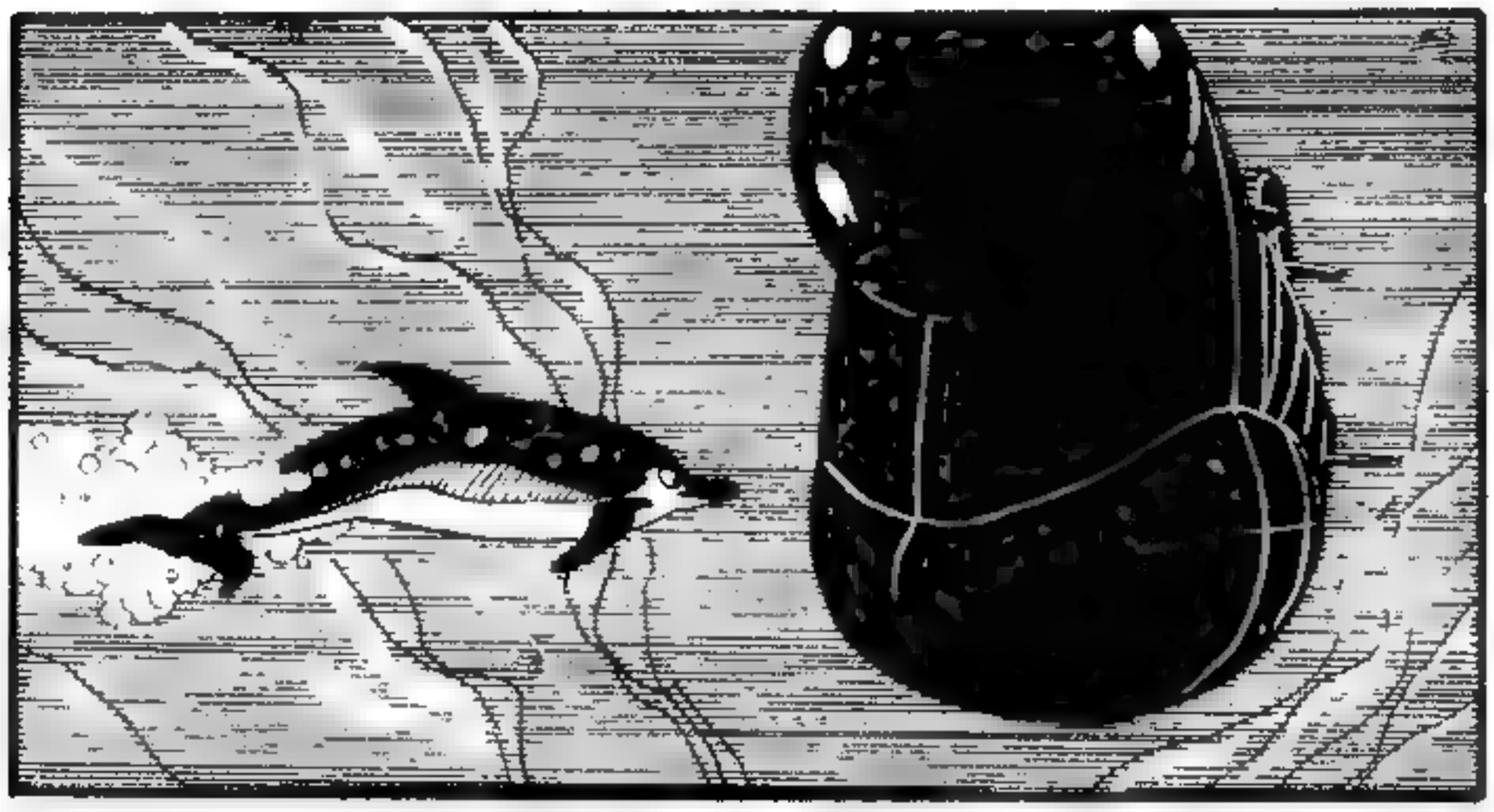


The Black Ghost's scientists concentrated their efforts on training a large number of these dolphins to be their eyes and ears out in the open sea. As a result, the Black Ghost created entire legions of these aquatic mammals to perform stealthy reconnaissance around the globe.





In 1960, a scientist named John C. Lilly in Vienna announced the results of his research on dolphins, which revealed that they have a highly complex language and even the ability to mimic human language. According to his written report, their brain is about the same size, if not slightly larger, than the human brain. But it is their brain organization that exceeds that of a human.



BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

CAPTAIN!

ARM THE TORPEDOES.

STANDING BY!

ALL RIGHT! STANDBY.

THEY'VE STARTED MOVING.

VUUN

VUUN

VUUN

KLIK

KLIK

TORPEDOS ARMED!

READY THE BT ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVE EMISSION!

VUUN

VUUN

VUUN

VUUN
VUUN
VUUN

ENEMY SUB SIGHTED 180 YARDS AHEAD.

BAD NEWS?

WHAT?!

THE RADAR INDICATES SOMETHING MASSIVE COMING UP BEHIND US.

VUUN
VUUN
VUUN

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY FOUND US SO FAST!

IT'S ANOTHER SUBMARINE.

BABOOM

WAH!

PSSH PSSH

GA GA GA GA GA

WE HAVE TO ESCAPE! RIGHT FIFTEEN DEGREES... HARD DIVE!

FIRE...!

WHAM

UGH.

HEH HEH HEH, WE'VE GOT THEM ON THE RUN.

FOLLOW THEM WITH THE DEVIL RAY 00A CAMERA. I WANT TO WATCH THEM SUFFER!

KLIK

ROGER.

HIT THEM AGAIN!

DON'T LET UP!

HEH HEH HEH, LET'S SEE HOW LONG THEY CAN HANDLE IT.

These creatures are equipped with a versatile clear underwater lens, developed by the Black Ghost.

BUT THEY PROBABLY WON'T GIVE UP THAT EASILY.

I THINK WE ESCAPED.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS WE CAN TAKE!

YOU MAY BE RIGHT!

BEEP

BEEP

THEY'RE PROBABLY JUST BIDING THEIR TIME UNTIL WE RESURFACE.

NO, IT CAN'T BE. WHATEVER IT IS...

IS IT THE SUB?

WE'RE NOT SAFE HERE.

BUT SOMETHING'S APPROACHING. SOMETHING BIG.

WHALES DON'T SWIM THIS DEEP.

DO YOU THINK IT'S A WHALE?

IT'S HUGE! WHAT COULD IT BE?

...IT'S ALIVE!

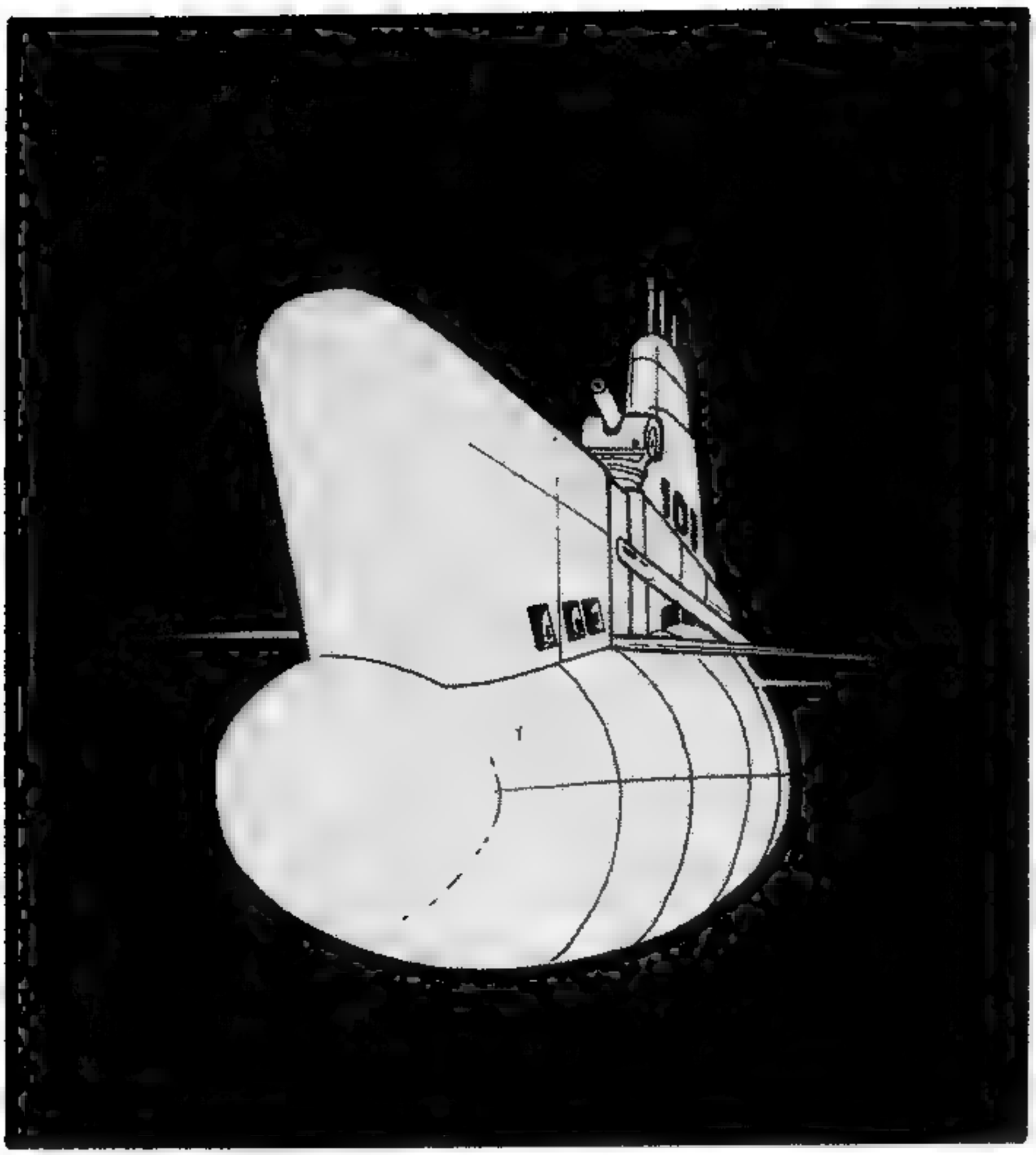
BEEP

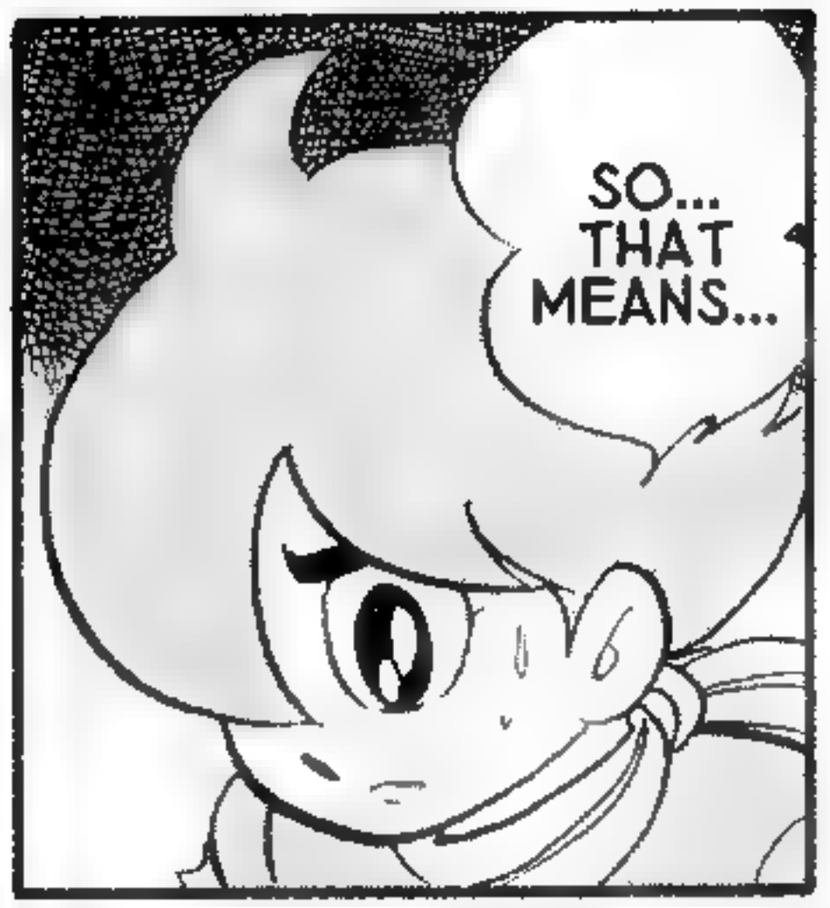
BEEP

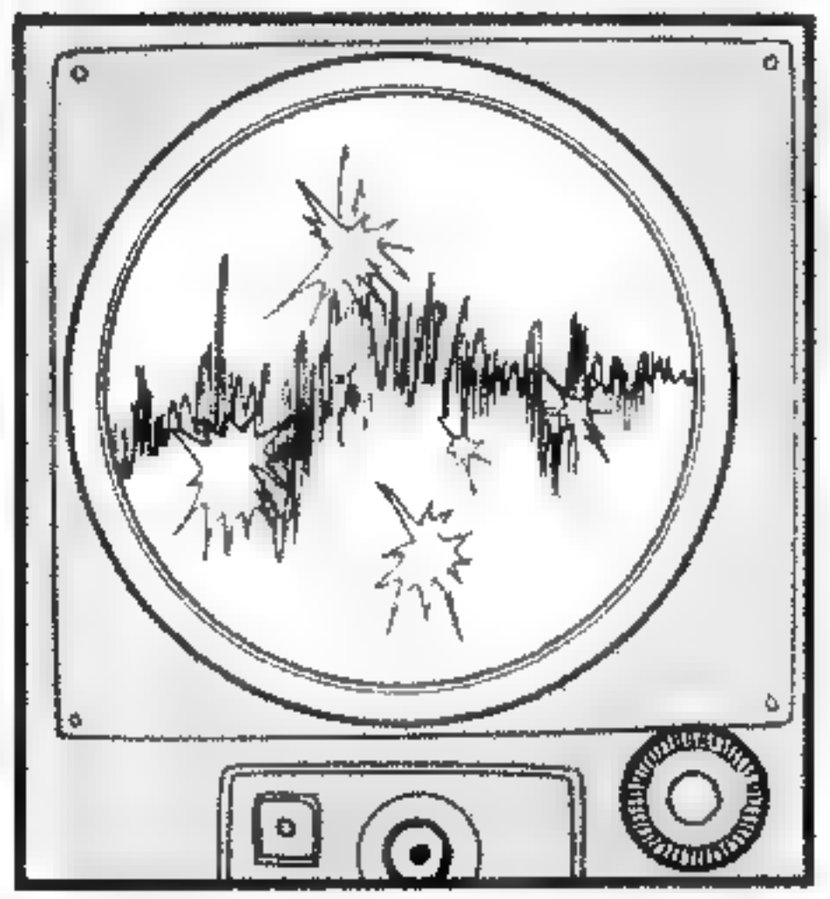
VUUN

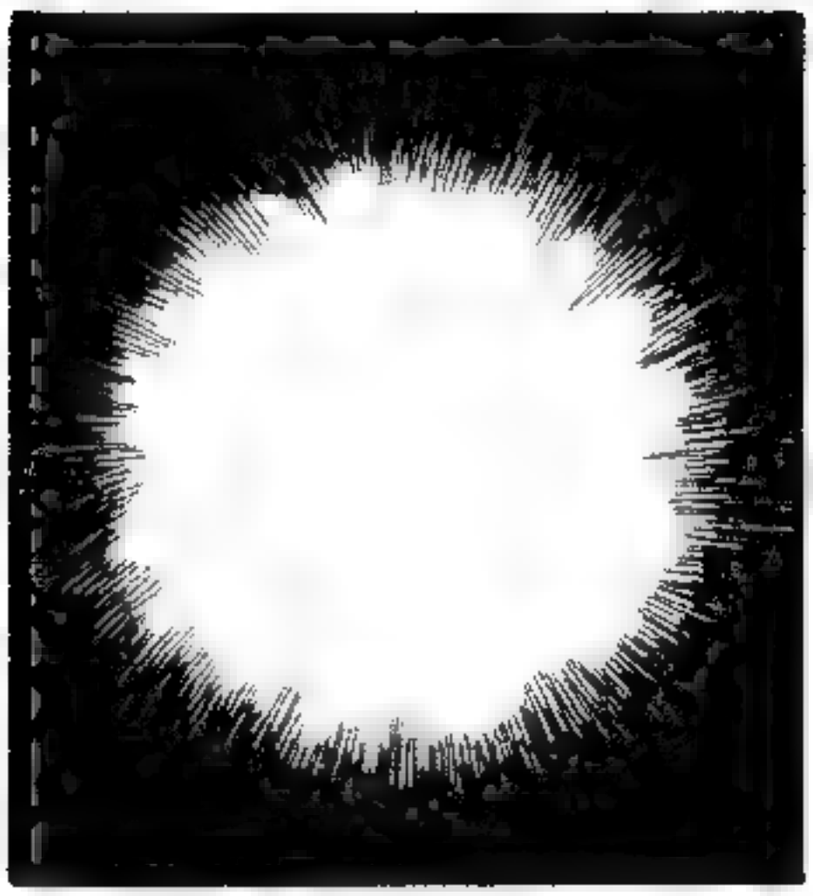
VUUN

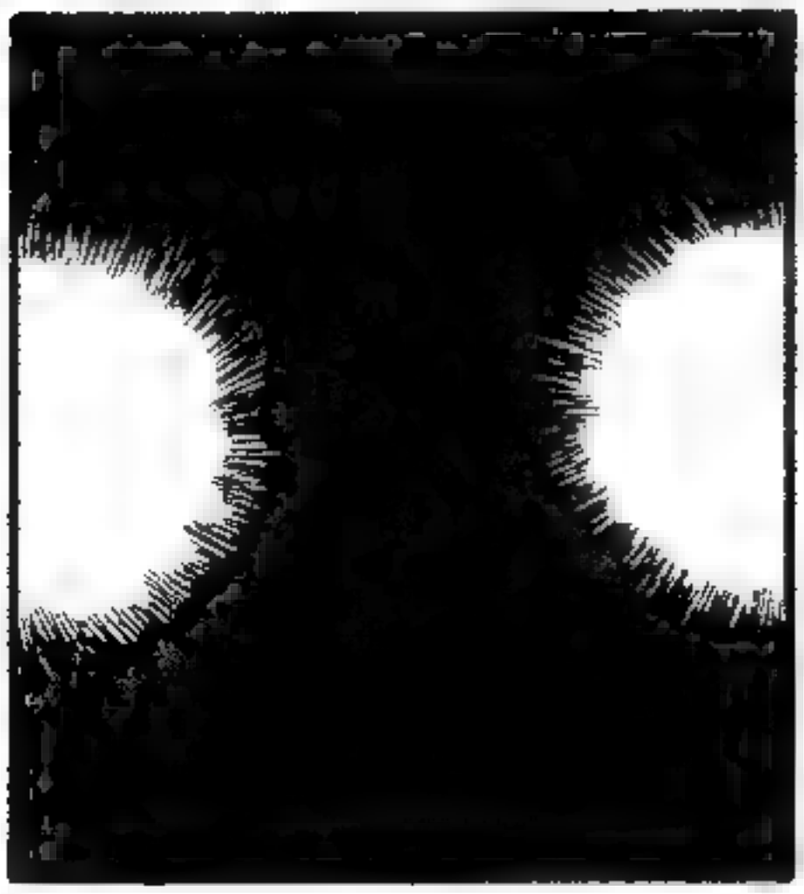
VUUN

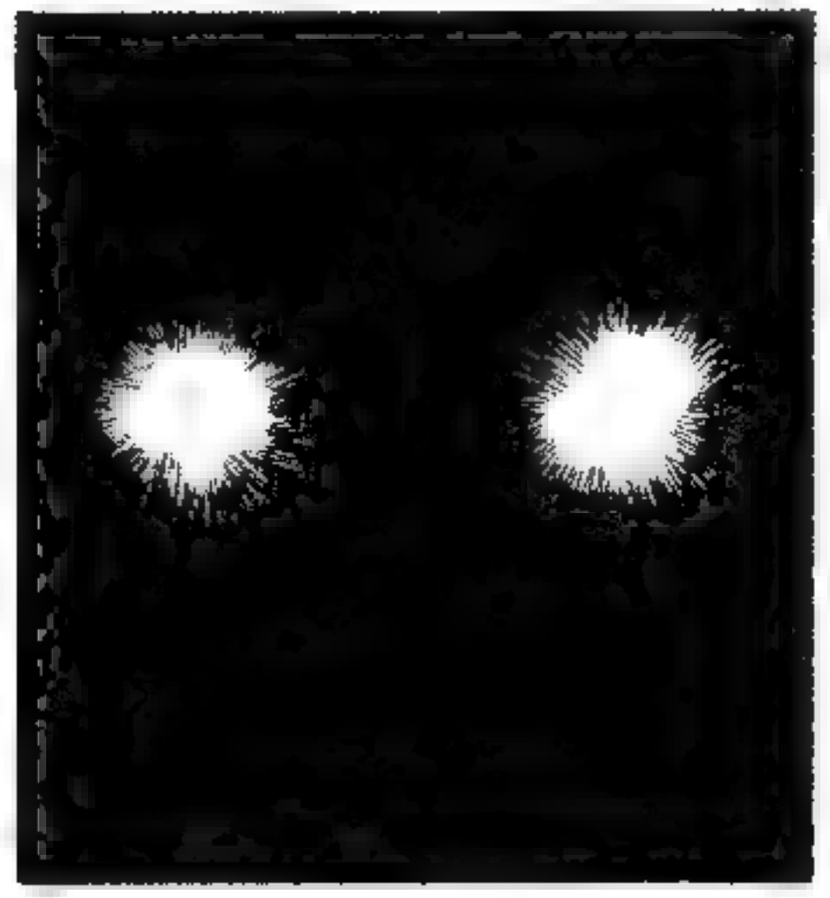


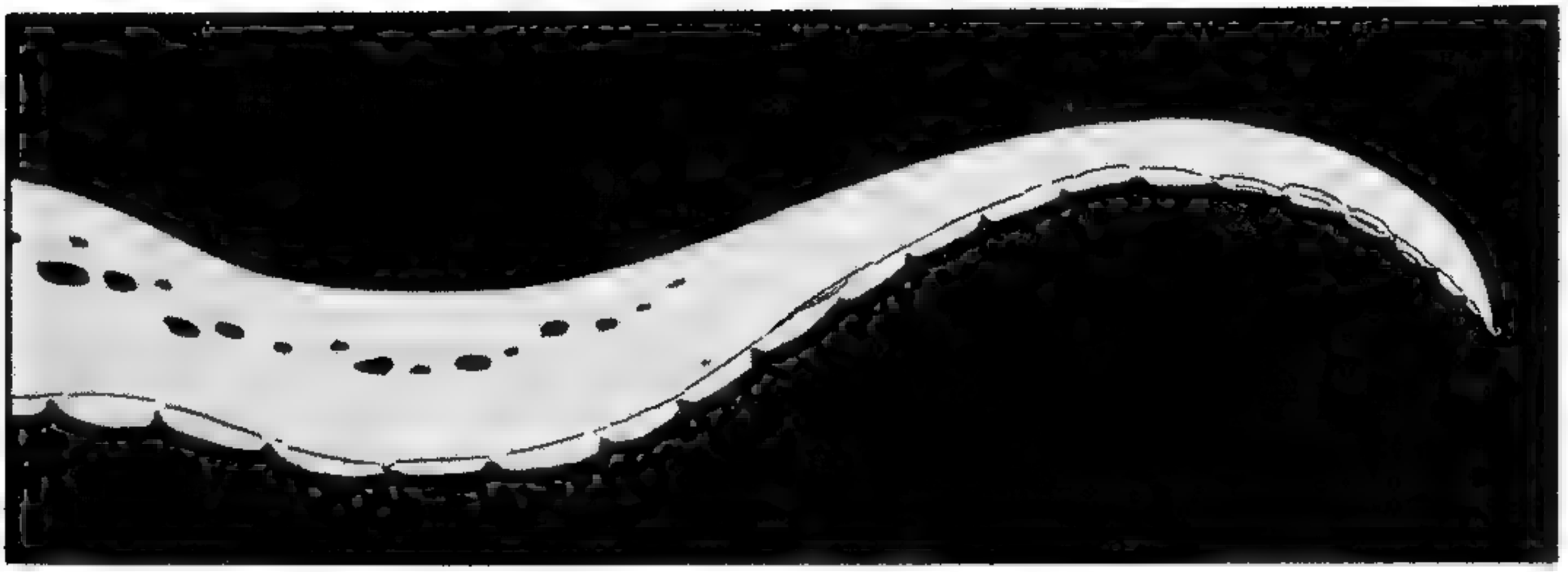

SO...
THAT
MEANS...

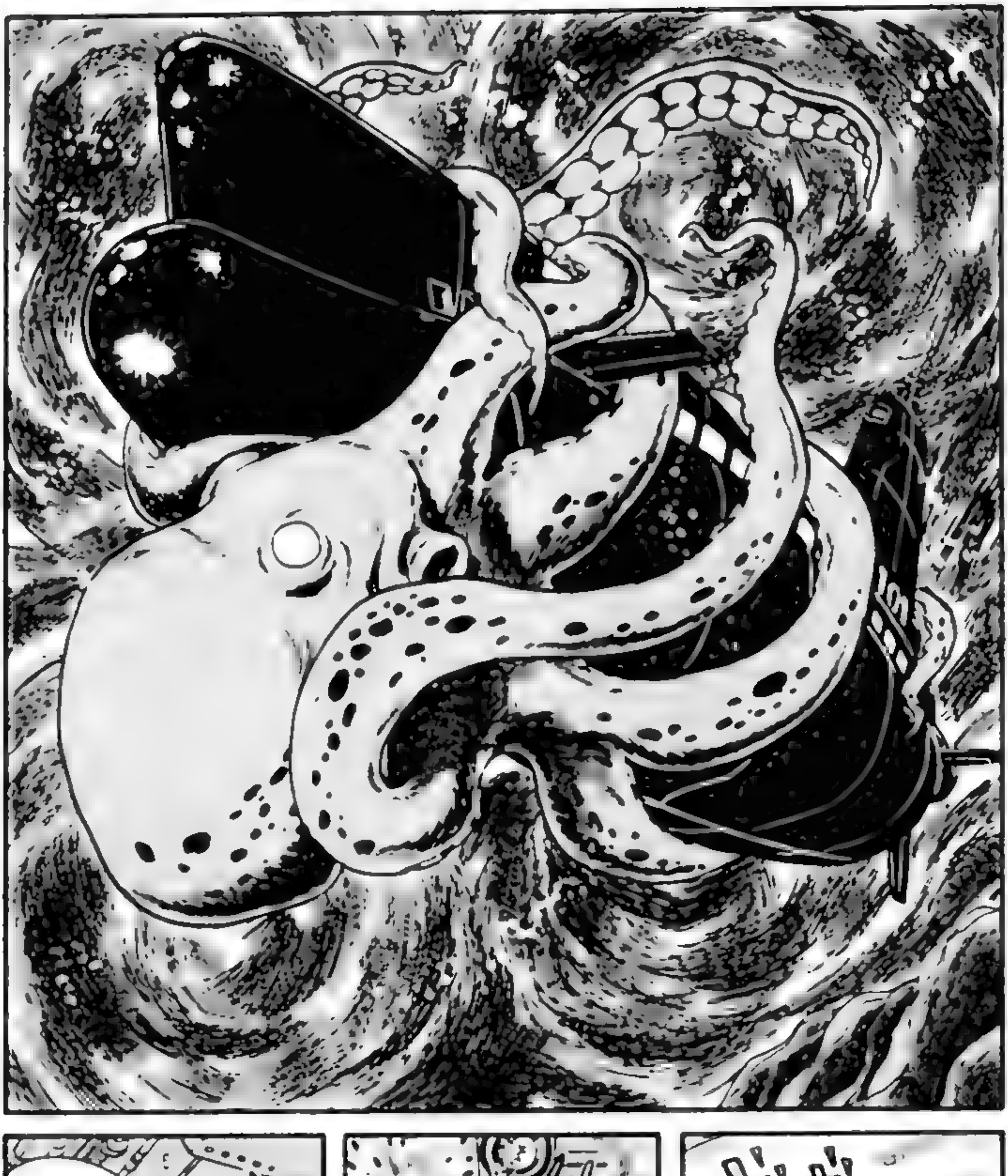




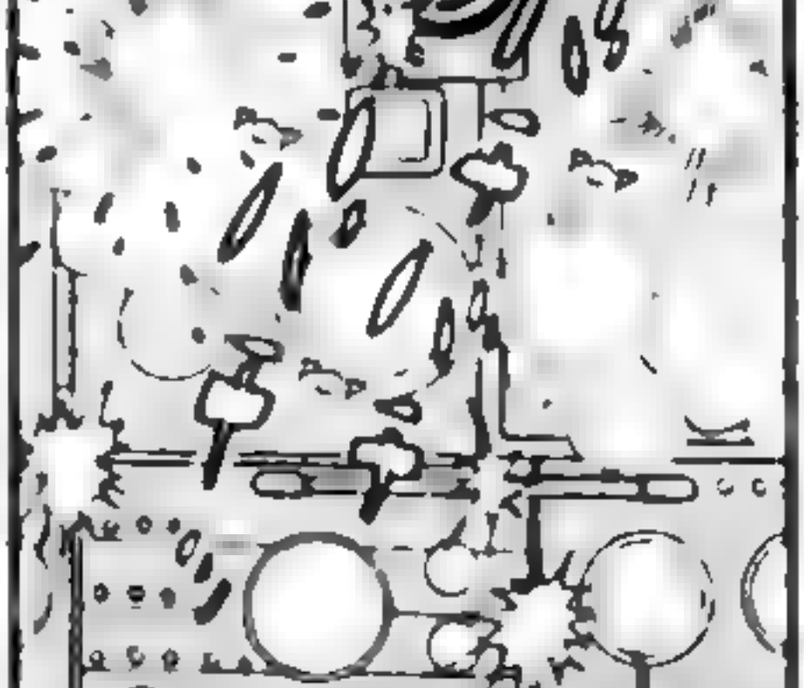








WH-
WHAT'S
THAT?



GASAH

I'M GOING OUT THERE!

THE HULL! IT'S COLLAPSING UNDER THE PRESSURE!

MEKA MEKA MEKA

IT'S SQUEEZING THE GUTS OUT OF THIS SUBMARINE!

GASHAK

COME WITH ME.

005! 008!

WHAT IN THE WORLD...?

GWO
GWO
GWO
MAN, THAT'S UGLY!
A GIANT OCTOPUS!
HMM...
WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT?
BUT...
WHAT?
YOU'VE CREATED A MAGNIFICENT CREATURE, DR. DRESSLER.
OF COURSE. IT'S THE CULMINATION OF MY LIFE'S WORK.
YOUR EXPERIMENT IS A SUCCESS!
GREAT WORK, DOCTOR DRESSLER.

FWIP

GLARE

MRMR MRMR MRMR

THIS IS NOT HOW I INTENDED FOR MY RESEARCH TO BE APPLIED! MY GROWTH SERUM WAS INVENTED TO PROMOTE LIFE, NOT ACHIEVE DEATH! EVERY DAY, THE WORLD'S POPULATION EXPANDS WHILE THE FOOD SUPPLY DECREASES. GIANT ANIMALS CAN FEED FIVE TIMES AS MANY HUMANS AS A REGULAR SIZED CREATURE. GROWTH SERUM ALPHA WAS THE KEY TO ENDING WORLD HUNGER!!

I'M SURE THEY CAN'T DEFEAT IT.

THEY HAVE THEIR WEAPONS DRAWN!

THE CYBORGS HAVE EXITED THE SUBMARINE.

KAWHAK

UGGH!!

SHUP

PCW

BOOM

PUSH

HUH?

THE SHARKS SMELL THE BLOOD FROM THE OCTOPUS.

SQUIC

WHAP

?

LET'S DO!

LOOKS LIKE FUN. SHALL WE JOIN HIM?

WHAK

BAM

WHAM

SHWAK

SHWM

IT'S CYBER-NETICALLY ENHANCED WITH CAMERAS!

HUH?

003, LOOK AT THE EYES OF THAT RAY OVER THERE.

MAYBE HE'LL LEAD US TO THE HIDDEN SUBMARINE.

LET'S GO AFTER HIM!

HE'S SWIMMING AWAY!

THERE'S THE SUB!

THEY'RE ALL MINIONS OF THE BLACK GHOST.

I JUST HOPE THEY'RE NOT LEADING US INTO A TRAP.

THEY'RE ALL ON THEIR WAY BACK, SIR.

LOOK, THE DOLPHINS ARE FOLLOWING IT TOO.

WHEN WE'VE DRAWN THEM INTO THE OPEN, HIT THEM WITH THE TIGER SHARK MISSILE

...AND FIND OUT WHERE THOSE CYBORGS ARE HIDING.

USE THE BT ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVE TO GATHER THE FISH...

BEEP

AYE AYE!

HUH?

WE'RE BEING SWARMED BY FISH!

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

THEY'RE BEING CONTROLLED BY THE SUB!

GET OFF!!

THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM! I CAN BARELY SWIM.

UH.

WATCH OUT! THAT ONE IS FIRING AT US!

Tiger Shark Missiles. The latest in Black Ghost cyber-bionetic technology. Cybernetically enhanced Tiger Sharks armed with guided missiles. The launching mechanism is psychokinetically linked with the shark's innate desire to kill.

VUUN
00
VUUN
00
LET'S DO IT NOW THEN.
ALL RIGHT, 009! IT'S NOW OR NEVER!
HERE!
YIKES!
WHERE?
CAPTAIN! THREE CYBORGS APPROACH-ING.
WHAM
WAH!

THINK YOU CAN GET US IN?

HEY, 005! I NEED YOUR STRENGTH.

GREAT WORK! ONE MORE HATCH AND WE'RE IN!

GAAK!

OH NO!! THEY'VE BREACHED THE HULL! WE'RE DOOMED!

DO DO DO DO

HELP ME! I CAN'T SWIM.

GLUB GLUB.

AHH!

SPLASH

PULL 'ER UP! PULL 'ER UP!!

WE NEED TO SURFACE THE SUB!

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET BACK TO THE 101.

GOOD JOB, GUYS!

HAH! THEY'RE ALL WASHED UP!

MIND IF I HITCH A RIDE?

VUUN

VUUN

VUUN

VUUN

...WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

DR. GILMORE ...

CIVIL WAR?

OF COURSE! BUT WHY GO THERE?

I TRUST YOU ALL KNOW OF THE CIVIL WAR IN VIETNAM AND LAOS.

THE INDO-CHINA PENIN-SULA.

THEY ARE PURPORTED TO BE USING HIGHLY ADVANCED WEAPONS IN THE CONFLICT.

RUMORS OF A SUPERHUMAN GUERILLA UNIT OPERATING WITH THE VIET CONG IN NORTH VIETNAM.

I HEARD DISTURBING RUMORS DURING OUR STAY IN JAPAN.

I WOULD ASK 001 WHAT HE THINKS, BUT HE'S NAPPING.

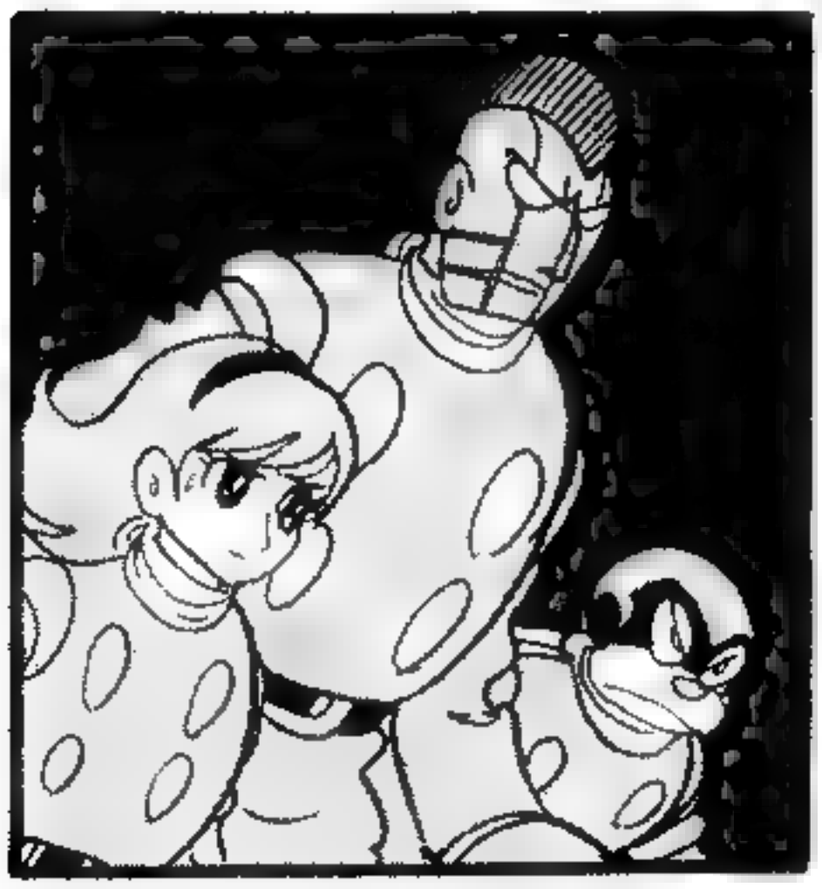
ZZZ

I BELIEVE IT IMPERATIVE THAT WE LOOK INTO IT.

THOSE BUGGERS.

BLACK GHOST?

MY INSTINCTS TELL ME THAT THEY ARE BEING SUPPORTED BY THE BLACK GHOST.



IT'S UP TO US TO STOP BLACK GHOST'S REIGN OF TERROR!!

IT'S UP TO US TO SEEK THEM OUT AND DESTROY THEIR ORGANIZATION!!

NO MATTER. ONLY WE CAN STOP THE BLACK GHOST.

People's Republic of China

India

Pakistan

Chandopu.

Kalcutta

Burma

Hanoi

North Vietnam

Gulf of Tonkin

Thailand

Laos

South Vietnam

Cambodia

Bay of Bengal

NO!

.....

UUUHH...

NO MORE FIGHTING!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH KILLING!

...THE BLACK GHOST WILL CONTROL THE WORLD!

IF WE DON'T INTERVENE ...

CALM DOWN, 003.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

VUUN

VUUN

WE ARE ALL THAT STANDS IN ITS WAY.

...SO THAT THE ENGINES OF UNREST FILL ITS COFFERS.

ITS SOLE PURPOSE IS TO KEEP PEOPLE AT WAR...

THE LIGHTS CUT OUT.

HEY! WHAT HAPPENED?

FSSH

WHAM

THE ENGINE STOPPED!

WE'VE LOST ALL POWER!

WALEARMS

HAS THE BLACK GHOST FOUND US?

LET'S GO OUTSIDE AND SEE.

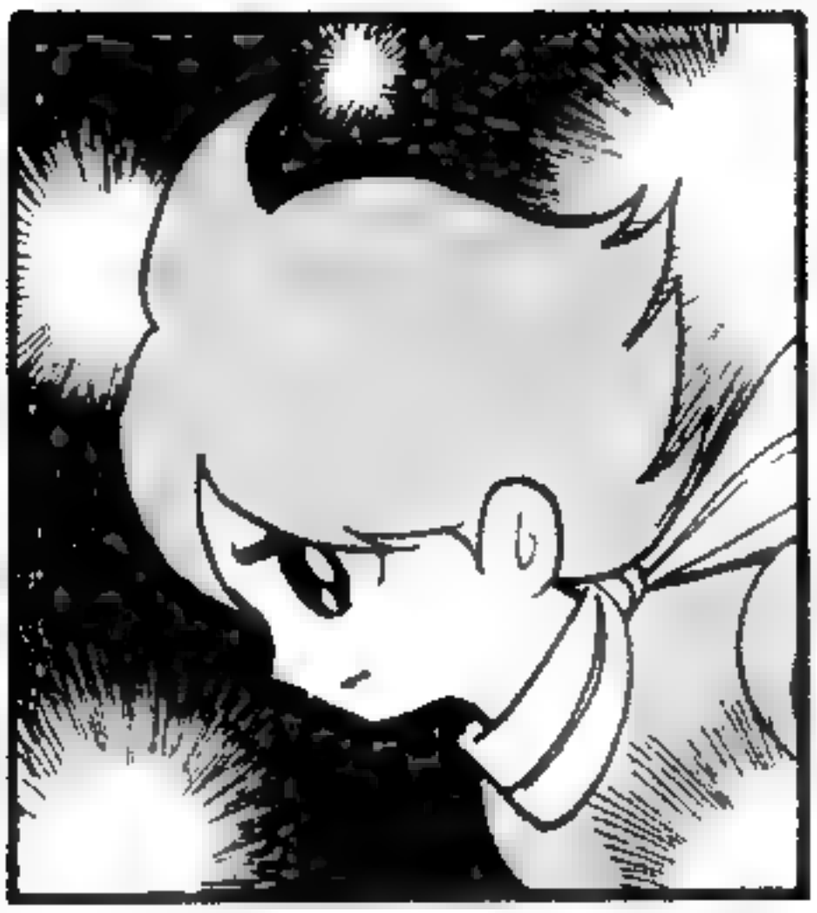
WE'RE SINKING!!

HUNDREDS OF GLOWING JELLYFISH!

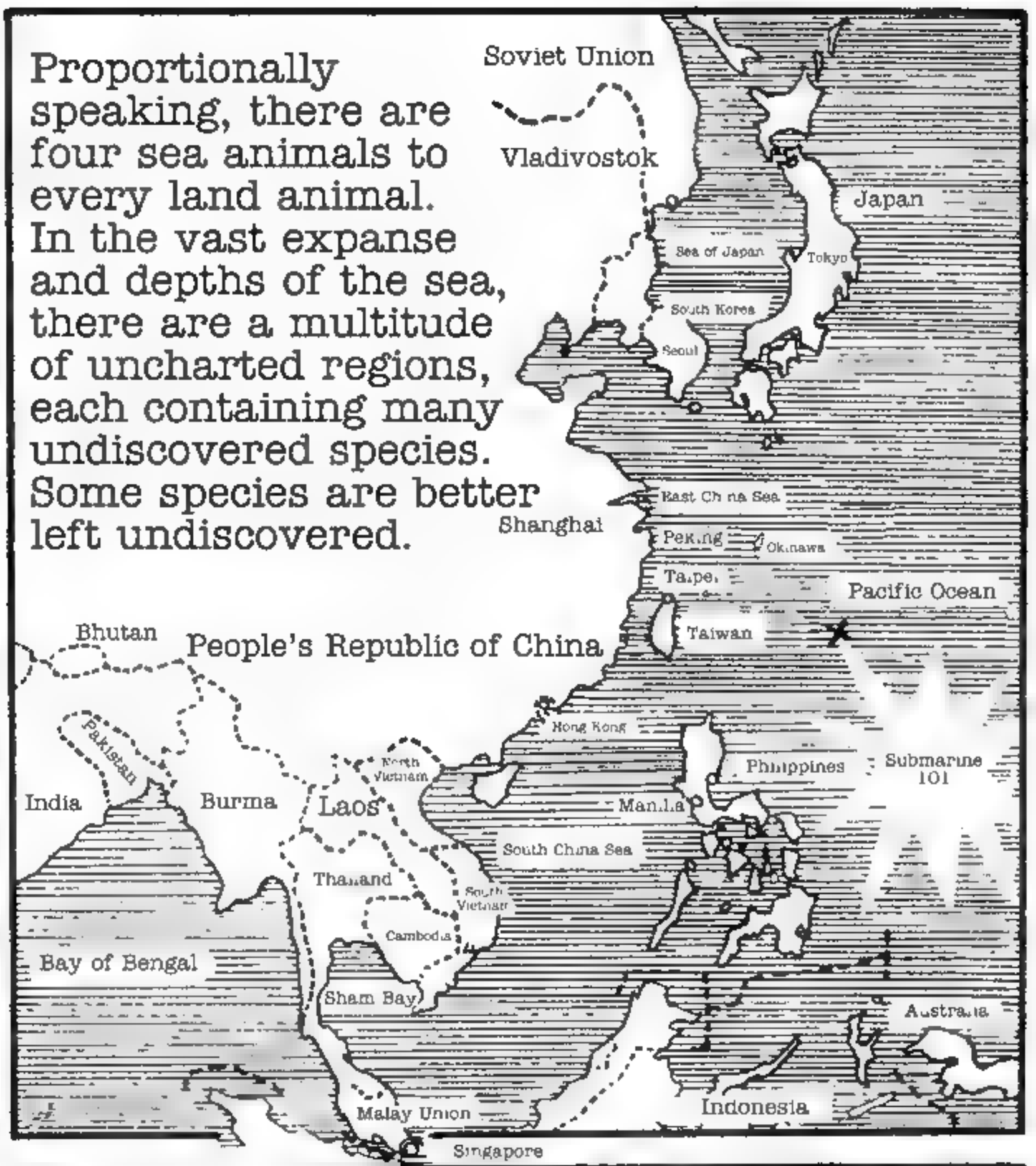
AAH!

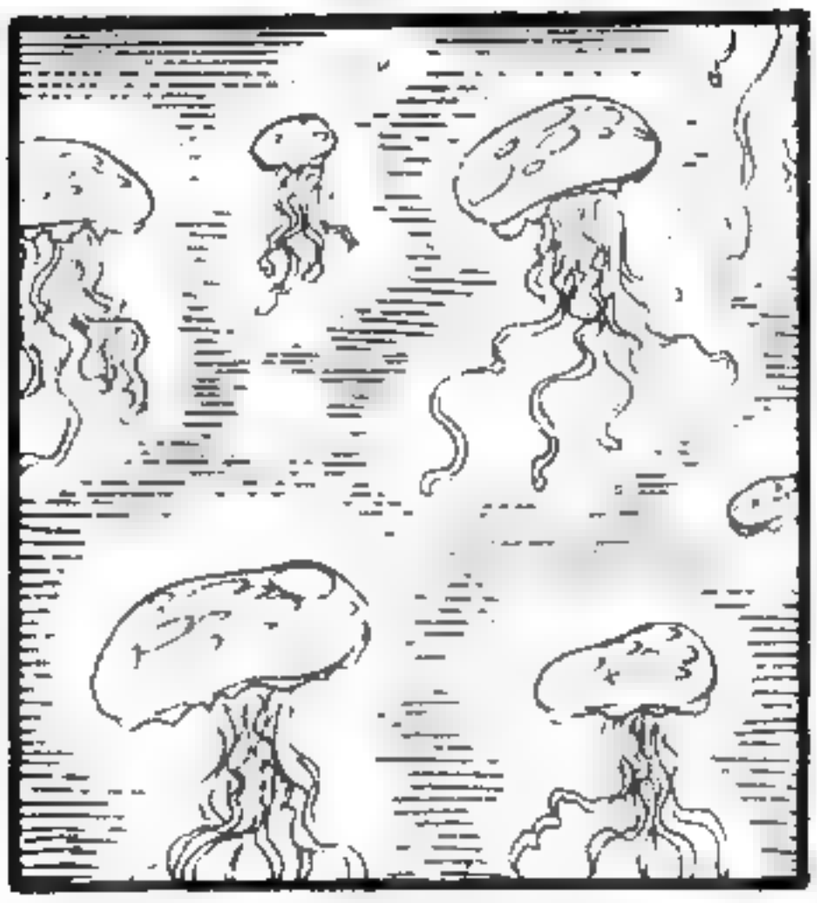
GASHAK

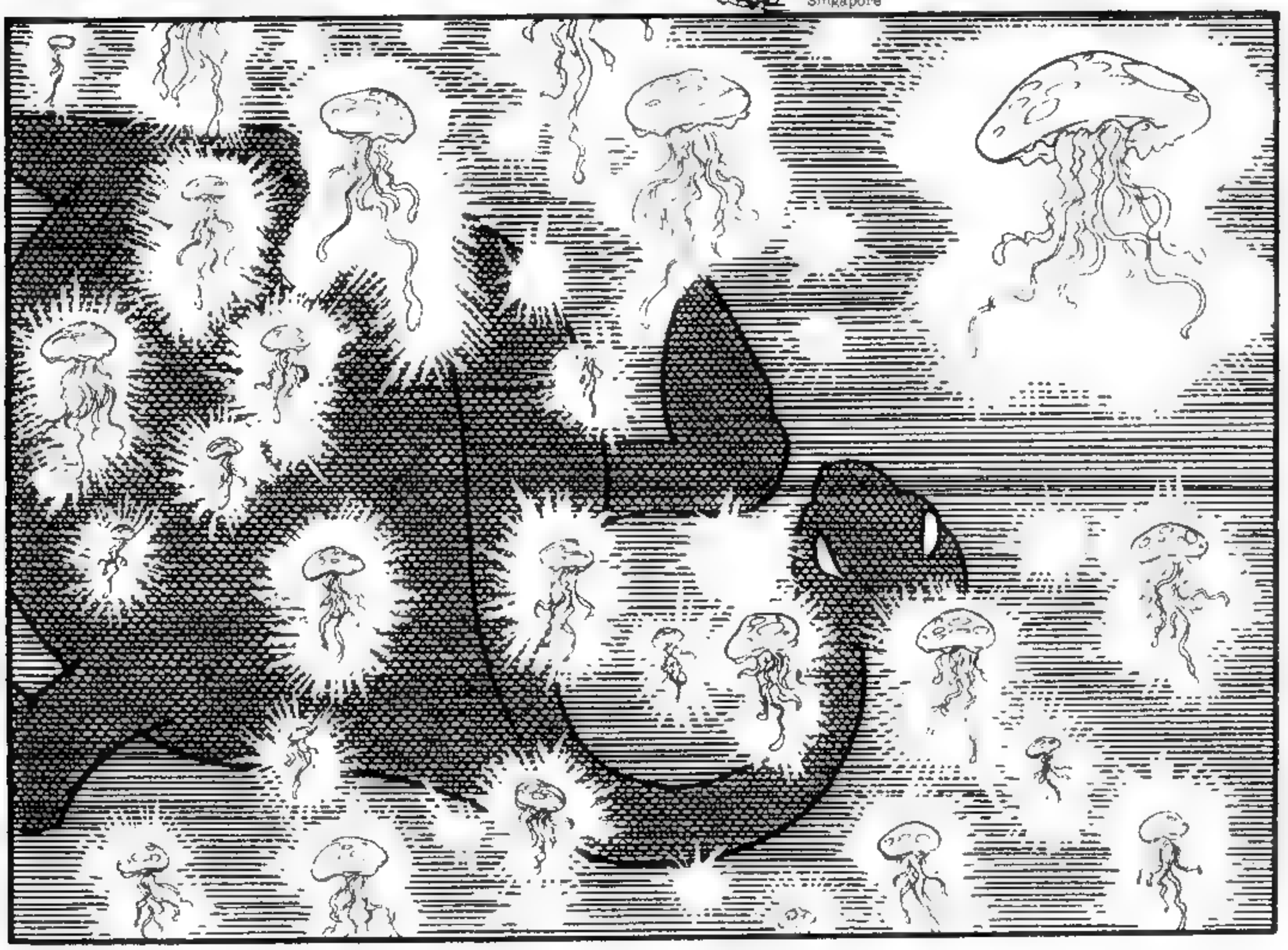
WHAT IS THAT?



Proportionally speaking, there are four sea animals to every land animal. In the vast expanse and depths of the sea, there are a multitude of uncharted regions, each containing many undiscovered species. Some species are better left undiscovered.







BOOM

THOSE DON'T EXIST!

IT'S A SEA SERPENT!

IT'S SCIENTIFIC NAME IS A PLESIOSAUR.

I'VE READ MUCH ABOUT THEM.

BUT I THOUGHT THEY WERE ALL EXTINCT!

HERE'S TO THE OLD TALES WE'LL TELL!

OLD TALES OF SAILORS TOLD OF SEEING MASSIVE BEASTS OF THE SEA.

WHAM

DAMN.

UGH.

HVUU

THE JELLYFISH ARE DRAINING ALL OF THE ENERGY FROM THE SUB.

OH MY GOD!

AND THE MORE THEY FEED, THE BRIGHTER THEY GLOW!

WE HAVE BIGGER FISH TO FRY!

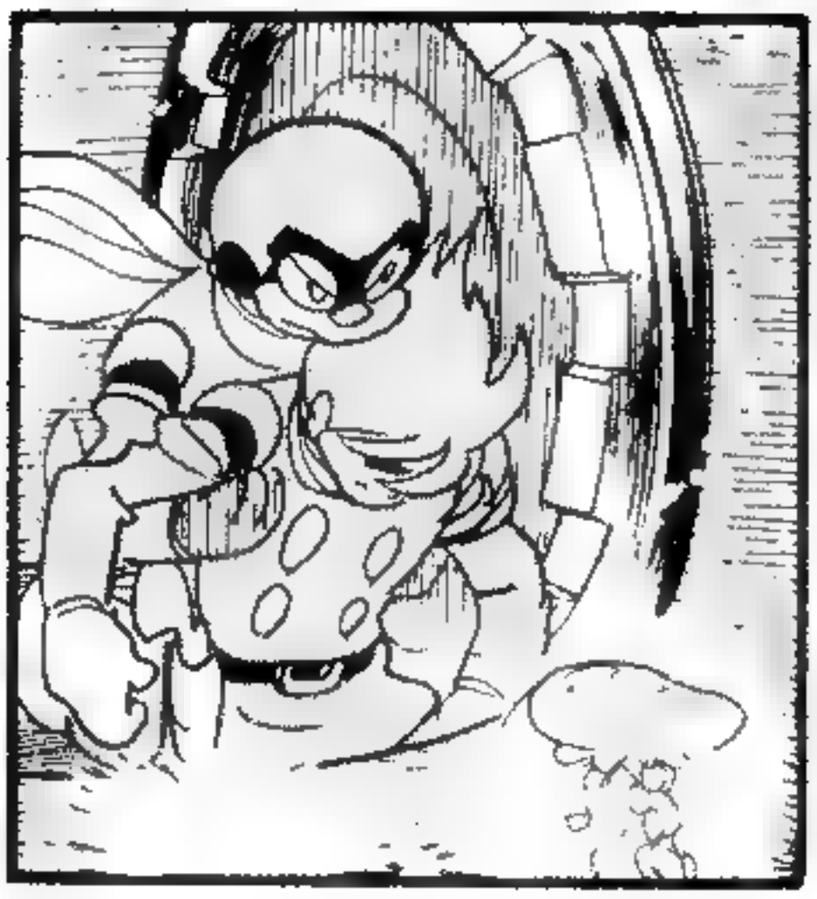
WHATEVER THEY ARE, THEY'RE FEEDING OFF OUR POWER.

ARE THEY ROBOTS?

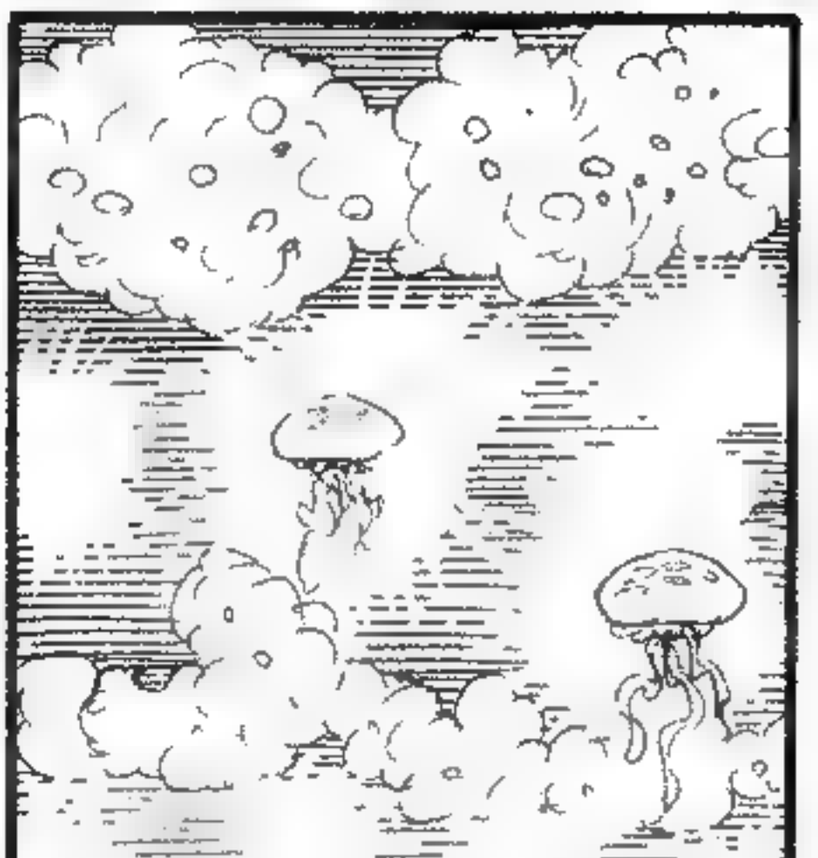
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, 009?

WAH!

GAAA



IT'S ALL RIGHT! I GOT YOU!



WHA...!

GASHAK

GASHAK

JOE'S HURT!

WHY DON'T WE HAVE POWER?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

GA GA GA

...IS TOUCHING ONE OF THOSE GIANT JELLYFISH... THEN I WENT BLANK.

I...I THINK SO. THE LAST THING I REMEMBER...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, JOE?

HUH?

UNH...

...BLACK GHOST CREATION OR NOT, THIS SUBMARINE, 009, AND THE SPACE GUN ARE ALL POWERED BY ATOMIC ENERGY...

IT'S HARD TO SAY WITHOUT SEEING THEM, BUT...

COULD THE BLACK GHOST CREATE SUCH A CREATURE?

SO, OF COURSE!

JELLY-FISH, EH?

BUT HOW?

THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO DRAIN OUR POWER!

CALM DOWN, 007!

GA

GA

...THAT DRAINS OUR ENERGY?

WUH... WELL... HOW DO WE BEAT A CREATURE...

...AND ALL THREE WERE POWERLESS AGAINST THE JELLYFISH!

A SEA SERPENT! IT'S HUGE!!

WHAT?!

THE JELLYFISH SWARM ISN'T OUR ONLY PROBLEM! DON'T FORGET THE PLESIOSAUR!

HEY 001, WAKE UP.

HOW CAN THE TIKE SLEEP THROUGH ALL THIS BELLOWING?

ZZZ ZZZ ZZZ

WAKE UP, 001!

AHH! HE'S AWAKE!!

Goo goo..?

Ah...

HEY, 001...

THIS KID COULD SLEEP THROUGH A WAR ZONE!

Mmmm.

GA GA GA GA

Yawn.

NO TIME FOR "GOO GOO" BABY, WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!

WE'RE MOVING!!

001

...HE'S GLOW-ING!!

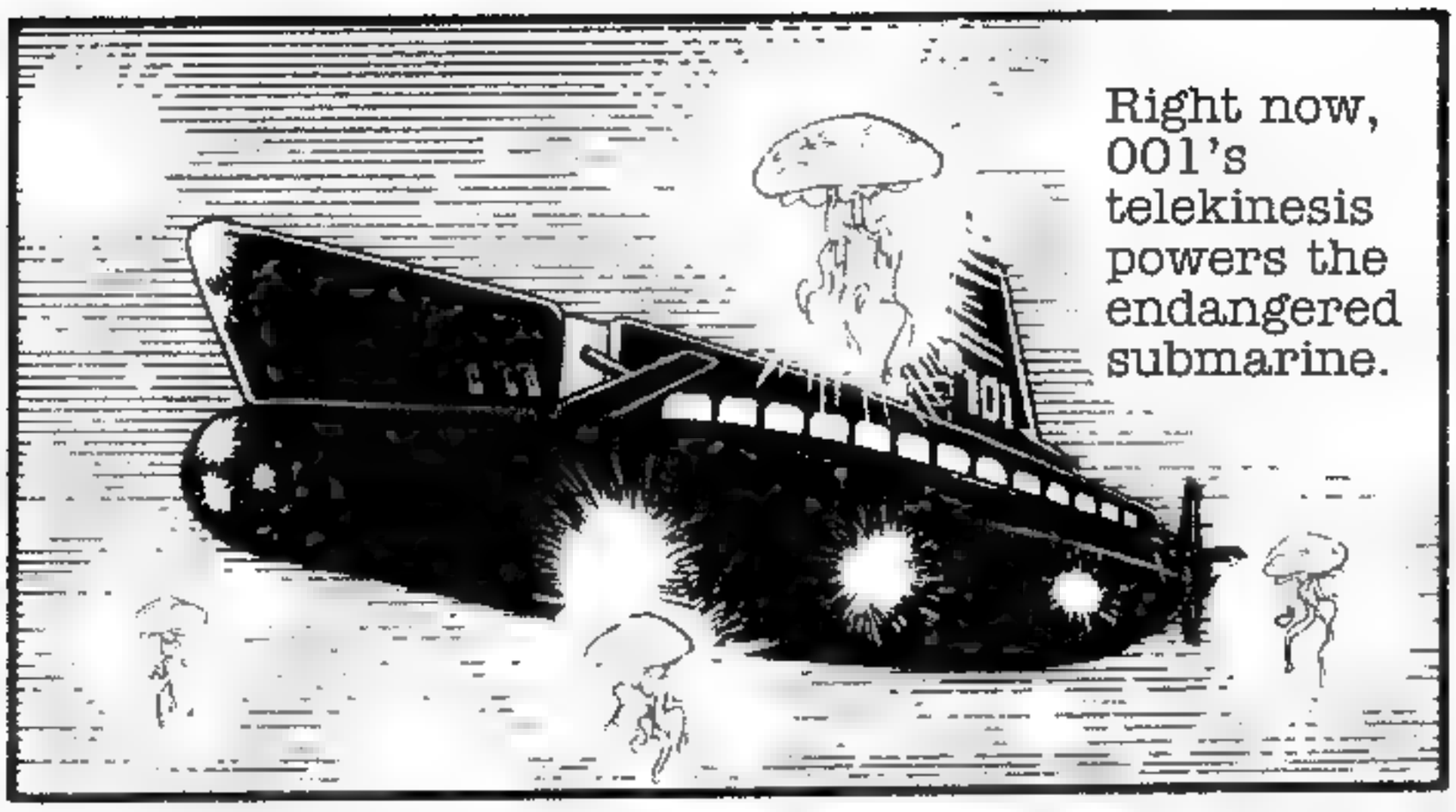
WOW, 001...

VUUN

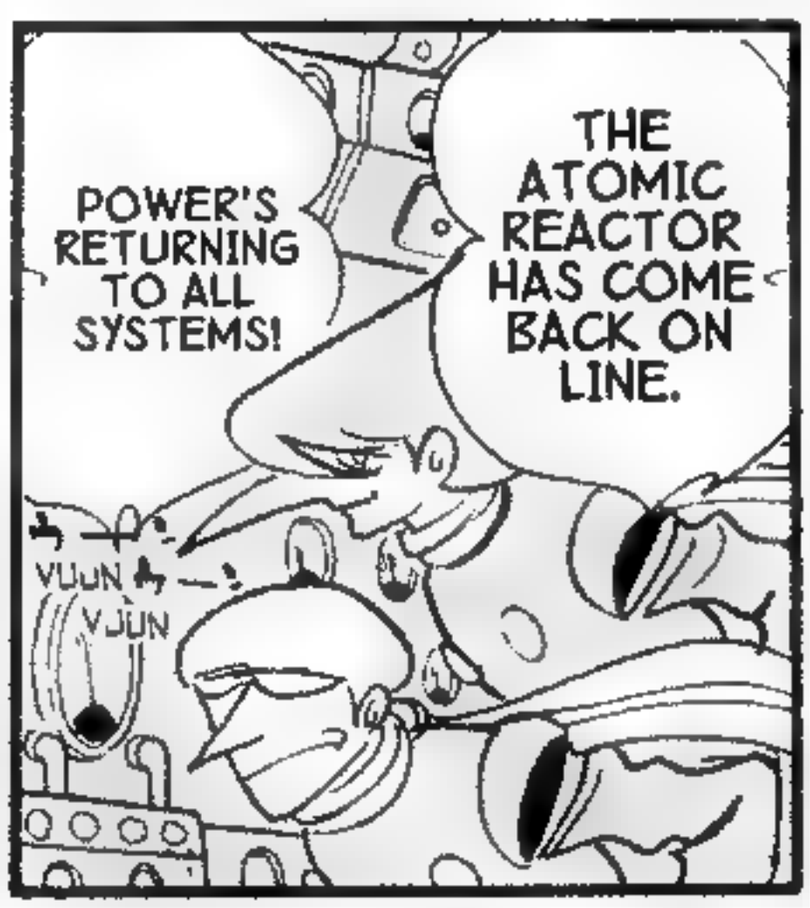
VUUN

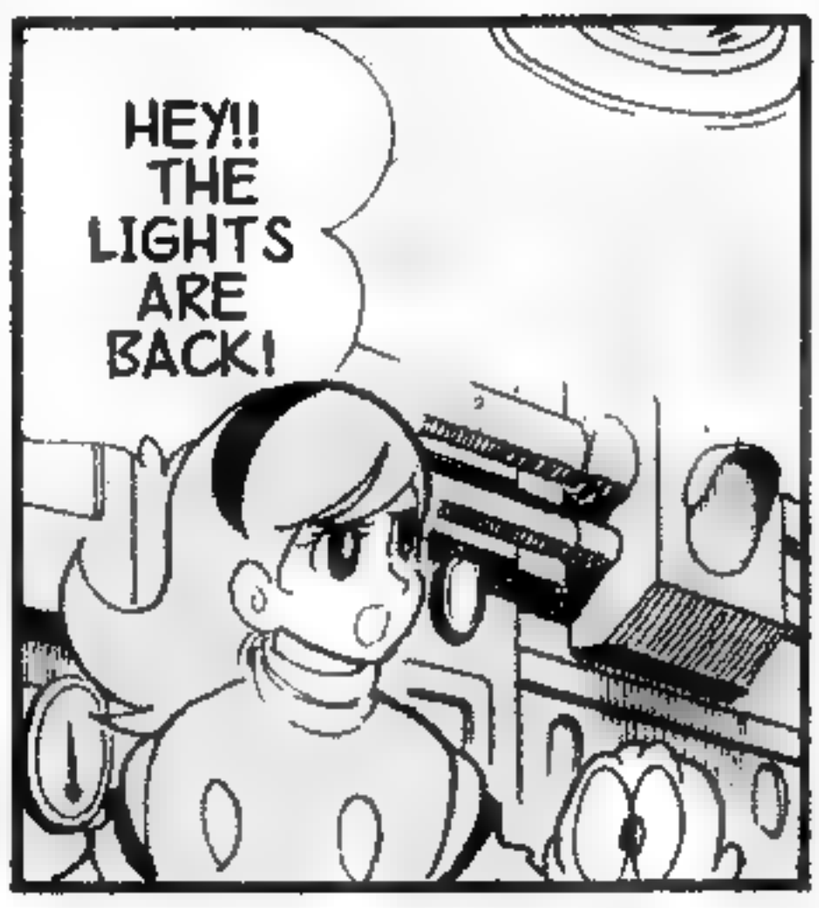
This, in turn, made 001 the first telepathic and telekinetic human being.

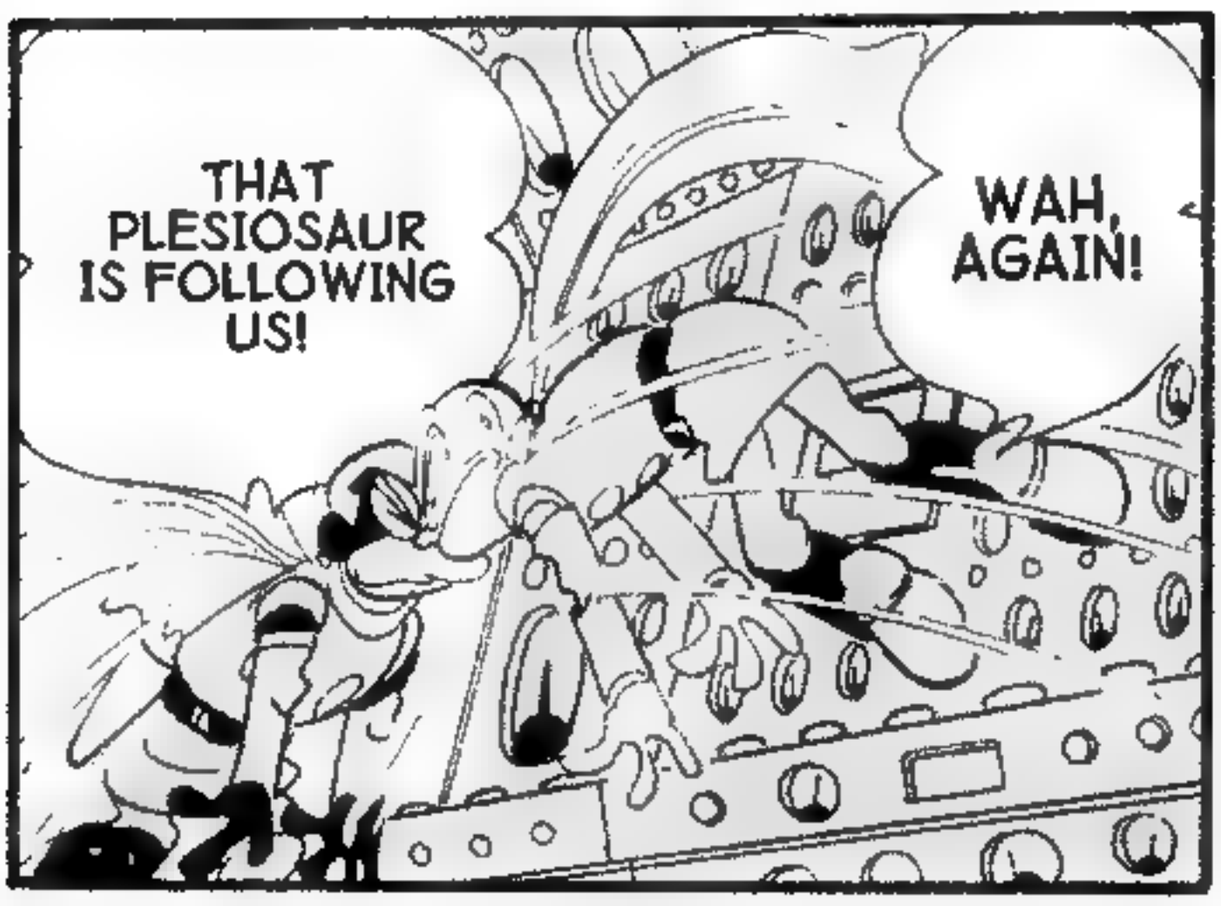
In madness-induced experiments, 001's father altered his son's brain chemistry, opening up talents and abilities beyond that of a normal human.

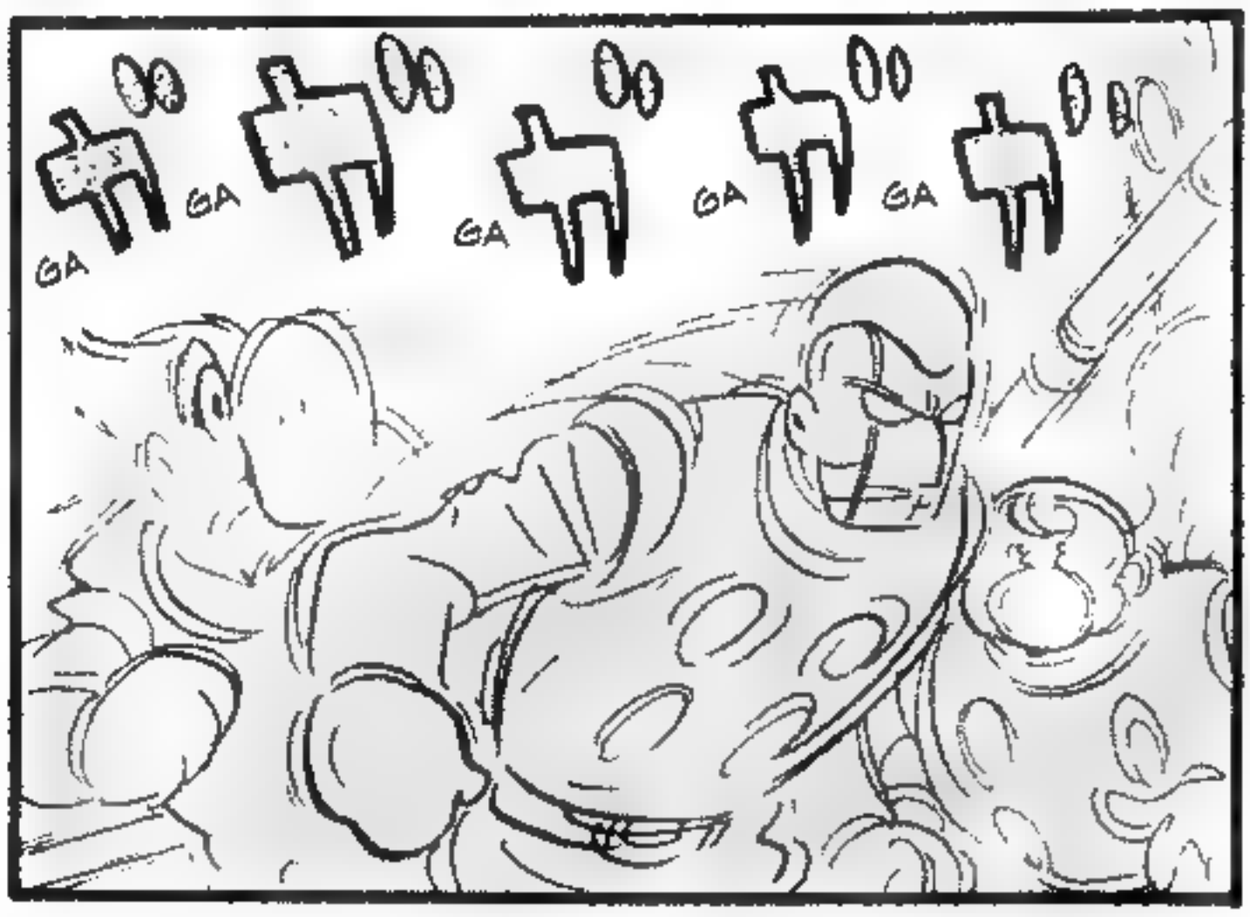

Right now, 001's telekinesis powers the endangered submarine.
101

WE'RE MOVING OUT OF THE POWER FIELD GENERATED BY THOSE JELLYFISH!


POWER'S RETURNING TO ALL SYSTEMS!
THE ATOMIC REACTOR HAS COME BACK ON LINE.
VUUN
VJUN


HEY!! THE LIGHTS ARE BACK!

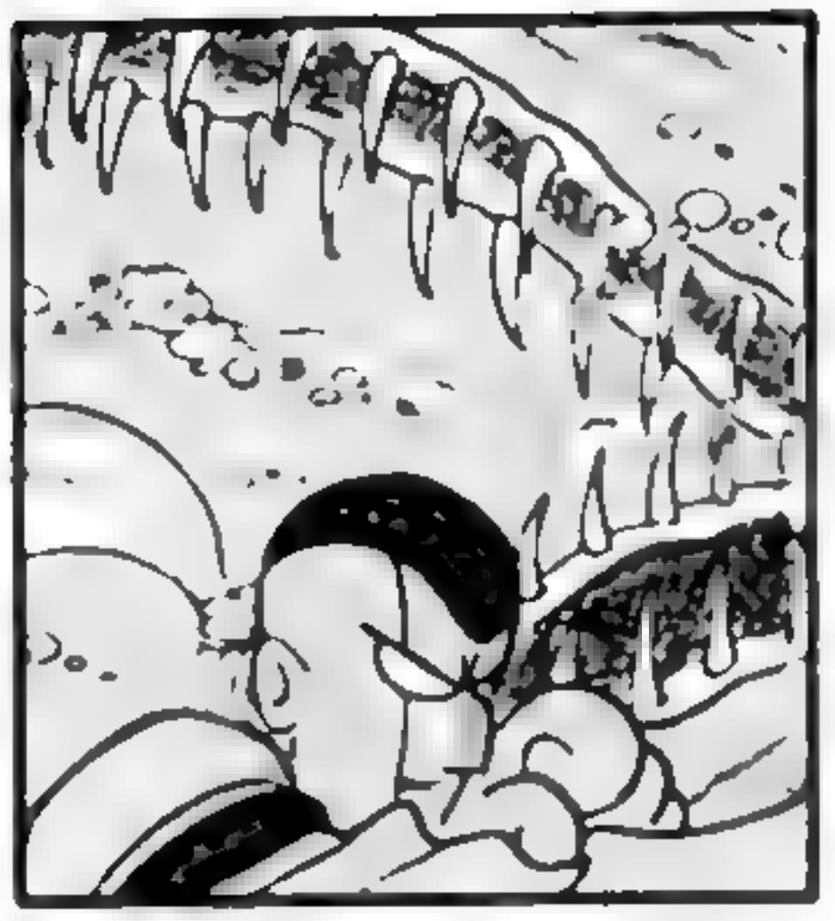

THAT PLESIOSAUR IS FOLLOWING US!
WAH, AGAIN!

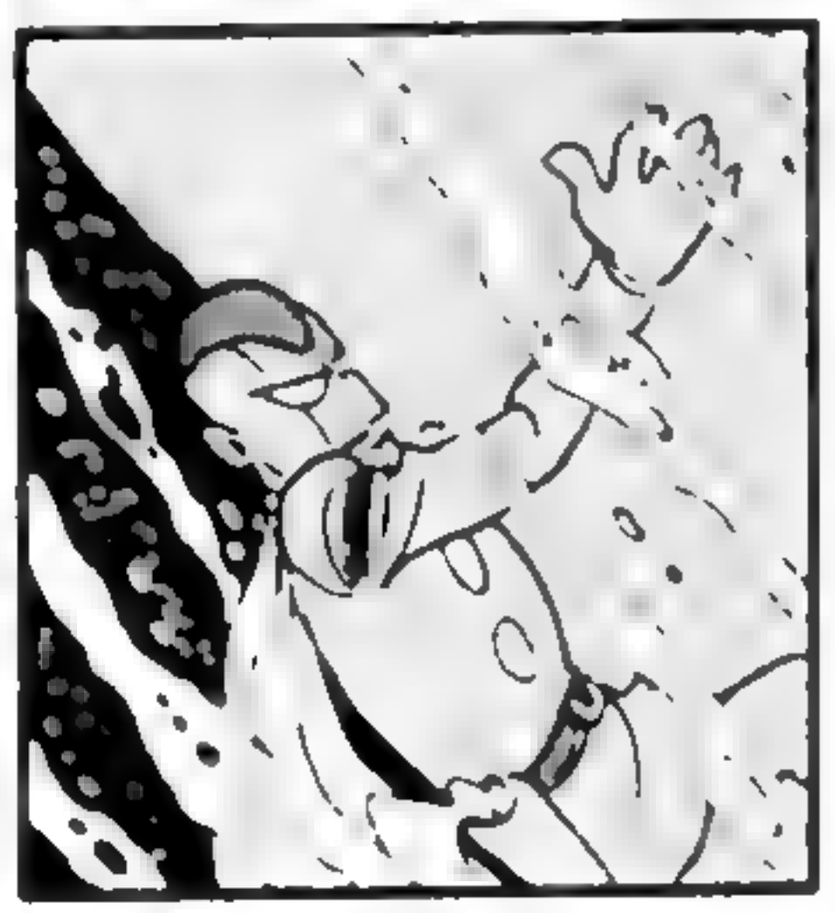

GA
GA
GA
GA
GA

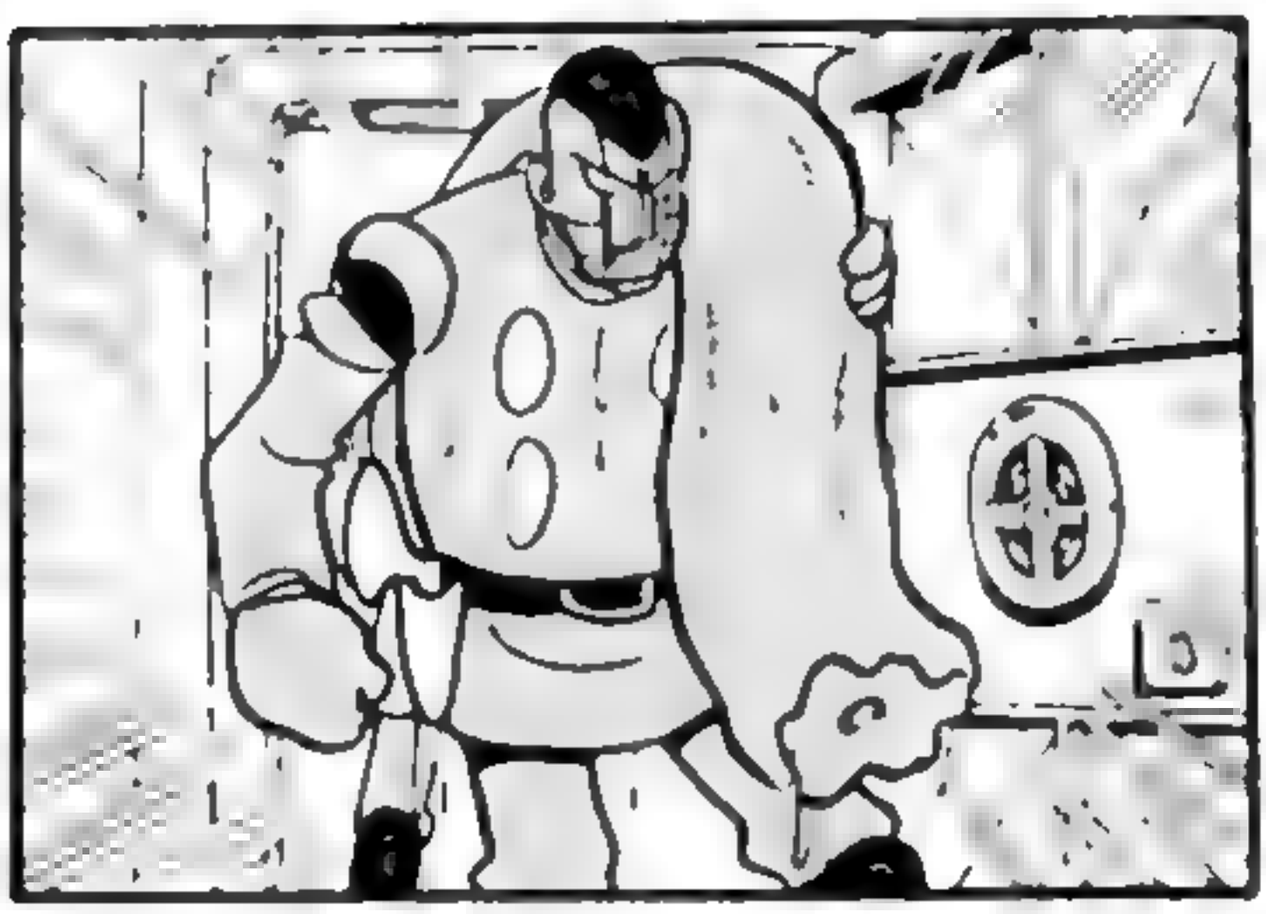
I WILL GO.

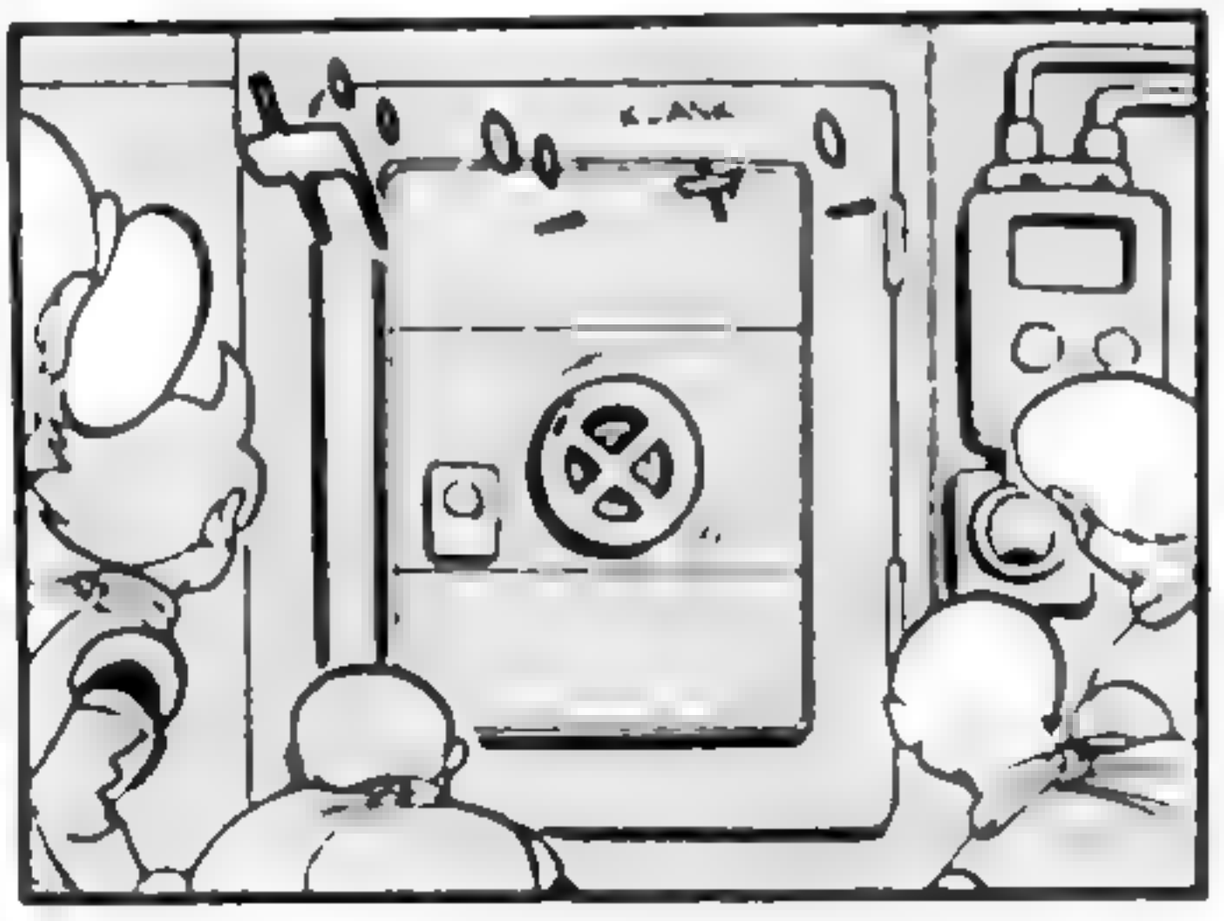
WITH THOSE JELLYFISH GONE, THIS WON'T BE A PROBLEM.

BE CAREFUL, 005.









...I KNEW IT WAS LIKELY THIS SPECIES SURVIVED AS WELL.

COELACANTHS, FROM THE SAME ERA, HAVE ALSO BEEN DISCOVERED TO EXIST...

HMMM, THE MYTHS ARE TRUE!

THUD

DOCTOR! I FOUND TWO OF THE JELLYFISH TRAPPED IN THE AIRLOCK.

IF I ONLY HAD THE TIME TO RESEARCH YOU MORE CAREFULLY.

BUT I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE ONE!

Though thought to have gone extinct sixty million years ago, a Coelacanth was caught recently off south-east Africa.

COULD THEY HAVE BEEN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED BY THE BLACK GHOST?

OHH...

ANOTHER BYPRODUCT OF THE NUCLEAR AGE!

WHAT IS IT?

HMM, AS I SUS-PECTED!

GA GA GA

LET ME GET A READING.

THE EXTERIOR SEEMS ORGANIC.

YA MEAN I'M REDUCED TO FIGHTING BLOODY MUTANT JELLYFISH?!

MUTATIONS?!

AS COUNTRIES BEGAN PERFORMING NUCLEAR BOMB TESTS IN THE DEEP SEA, RADIATION SPREAD THROUGHOUT LARGE REGIONS OF WATER. MUCH OF THE INDIGENOUS SEA LIFE BECAME MUTATED.

A JELLYFISH BODY IS MADE UP OF 98 PERCENT WATER. THE IRRADIATED WATER CAUSED SEVERE MUTATIONS.

THE DISEASE OF WAR HAS INFECTED THE OCEANS.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE EARTH!

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT IT!

AND THE HOPE THAT PEACE WILL EVER THRIVE.

...LIES THE BLACK GHOST!

AND IN THE SHADOWS OF WAR...

WE MUST FIGHT IT.

I'M AMAZED HE CAN SLEEP.

ISN'T THAT CUTE? HE'S SLEEPING AGAIN!

HE'S JUST A NORMAL BABY.

ZZ
ZZ
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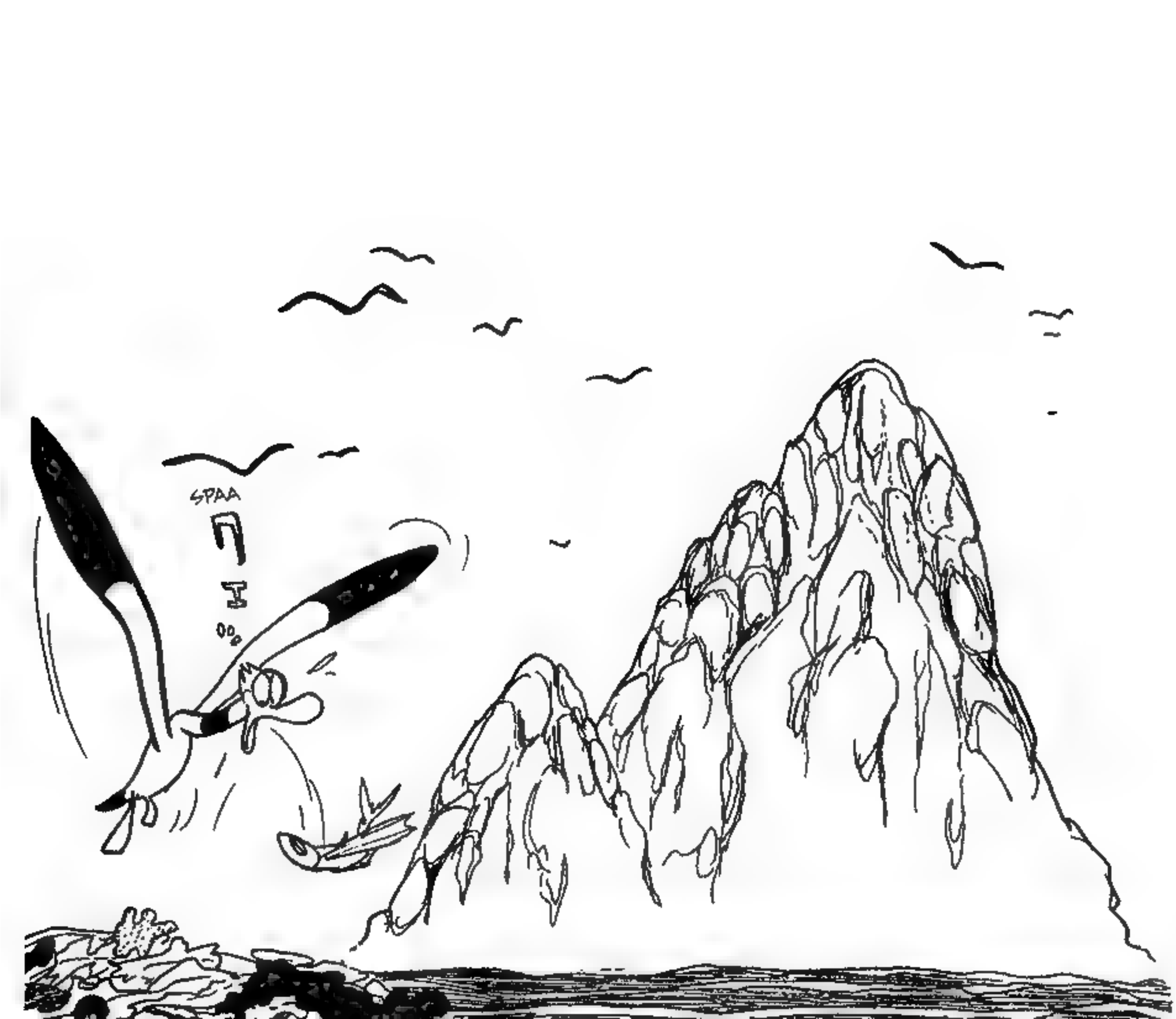
SPAA
ΠI
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PROLOGUE

The atomic bombs
dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
arguably ended World War II.

The bomb was called "the second fire" or "the second sun" by the Japanese people. They believed it to be the ultimate weapon of war.

At that time, the victors claimed that the fear of destruction would encourage peace. But where is that peace now?

Because of the sheer power of even one of these bombs, it was unfathomable that any world leader would ever think to use one ever again and that war itself would be confined in more traditional arena.

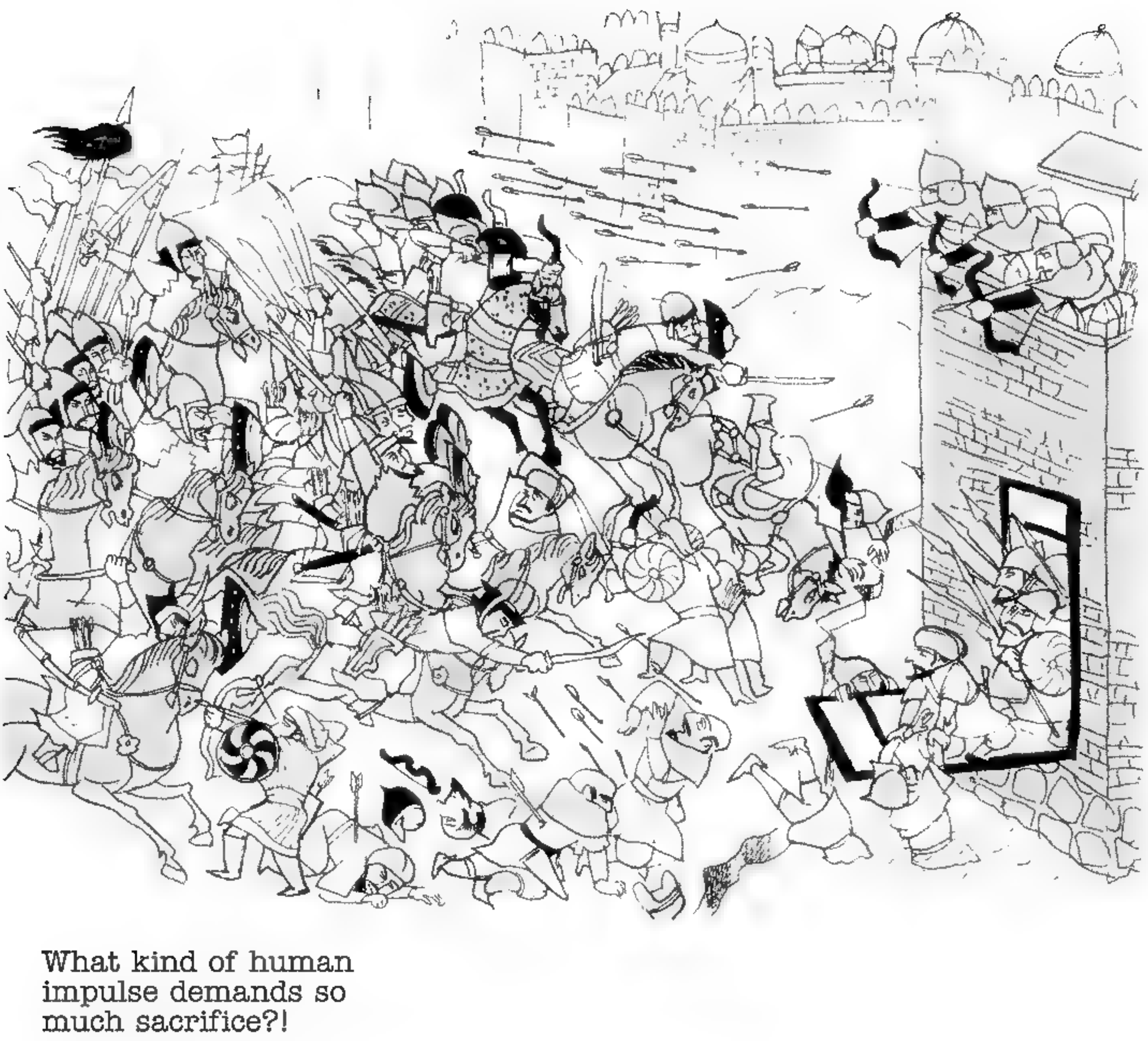
From the dawn of man, humankind has entangled itself in conflict and struggle. It's as if humanity thrives on a culture of conflict, clashes and bloodshed.

The tapestry of history is damp with the tears of sadness and regret.

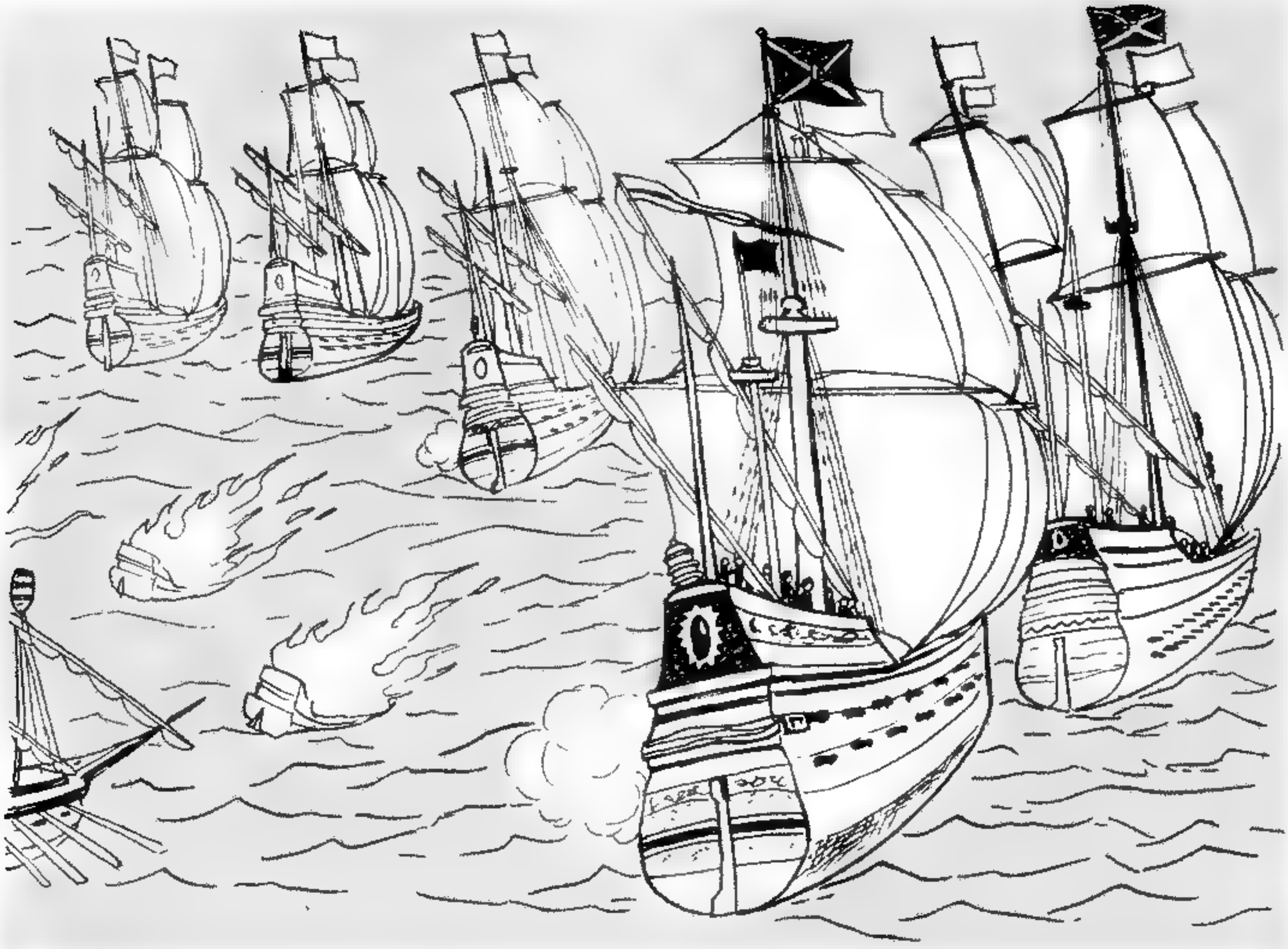
However, what is it that drives humanity to combat? Is it a genetically-rooted impulse that keeps the thirst for war coursing throw its veins?

Or could it be that the same energy that fuels the human biological proclivity to illness and disease also fuels the spiritual desire to destroy?

Either way, what is the purpose of war?



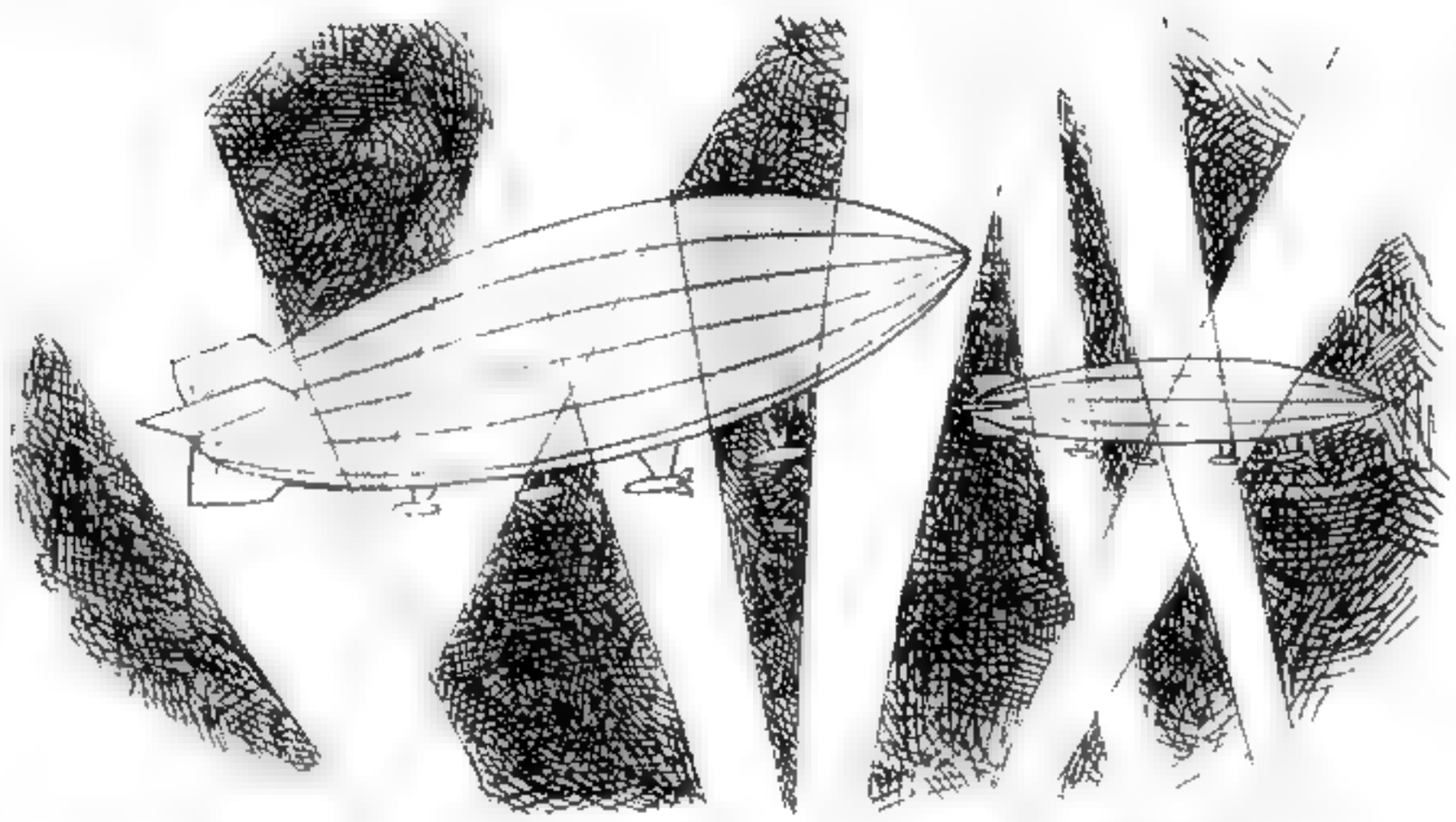
What kind of human impulse demands so much sacrifice?!

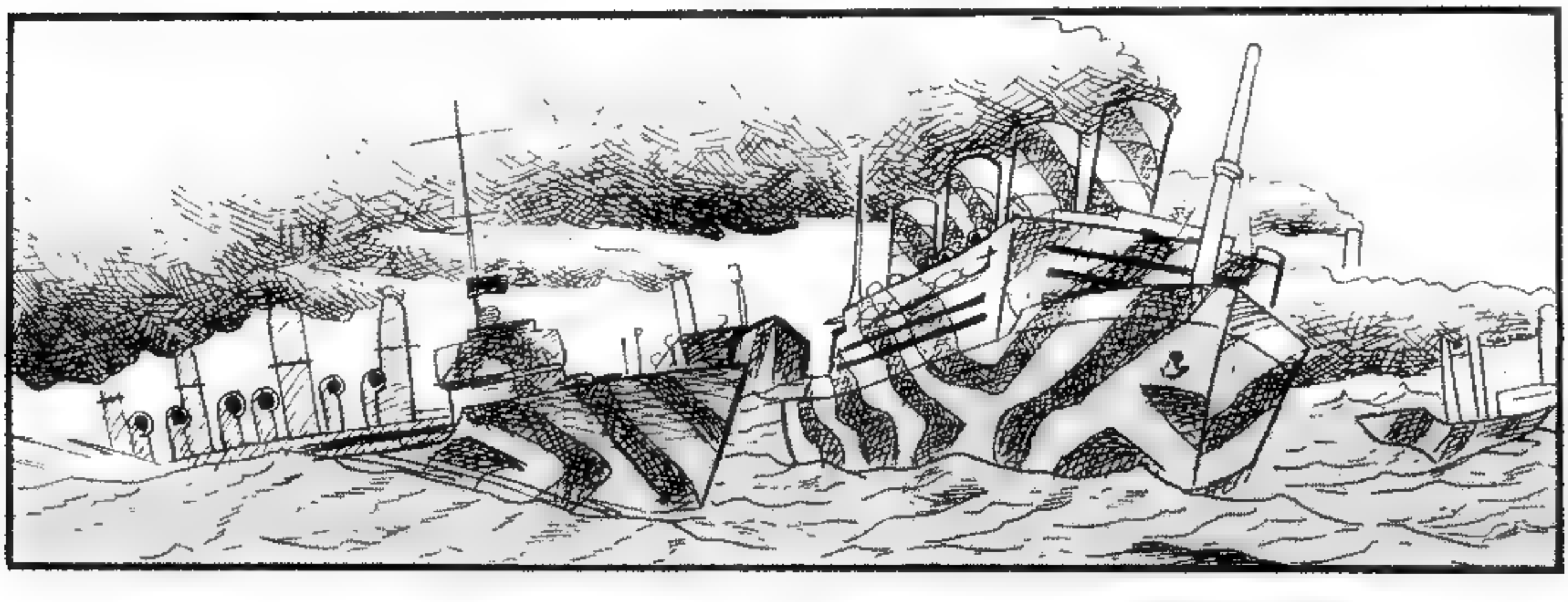


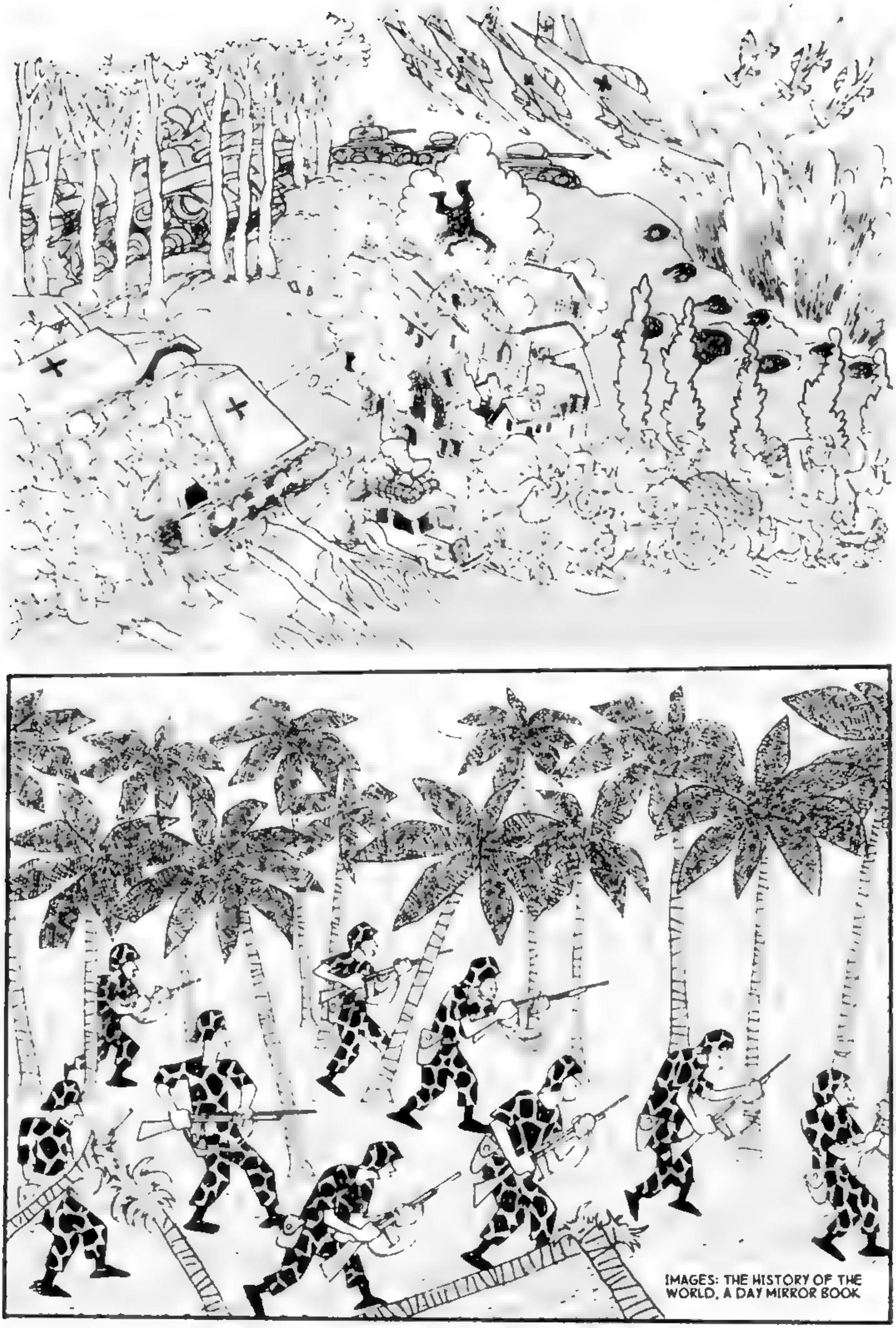
Perhaps it's a necessary evil. After all, history has shown us that war has brought about positive change as well. Can the very pages of history not turn without war?

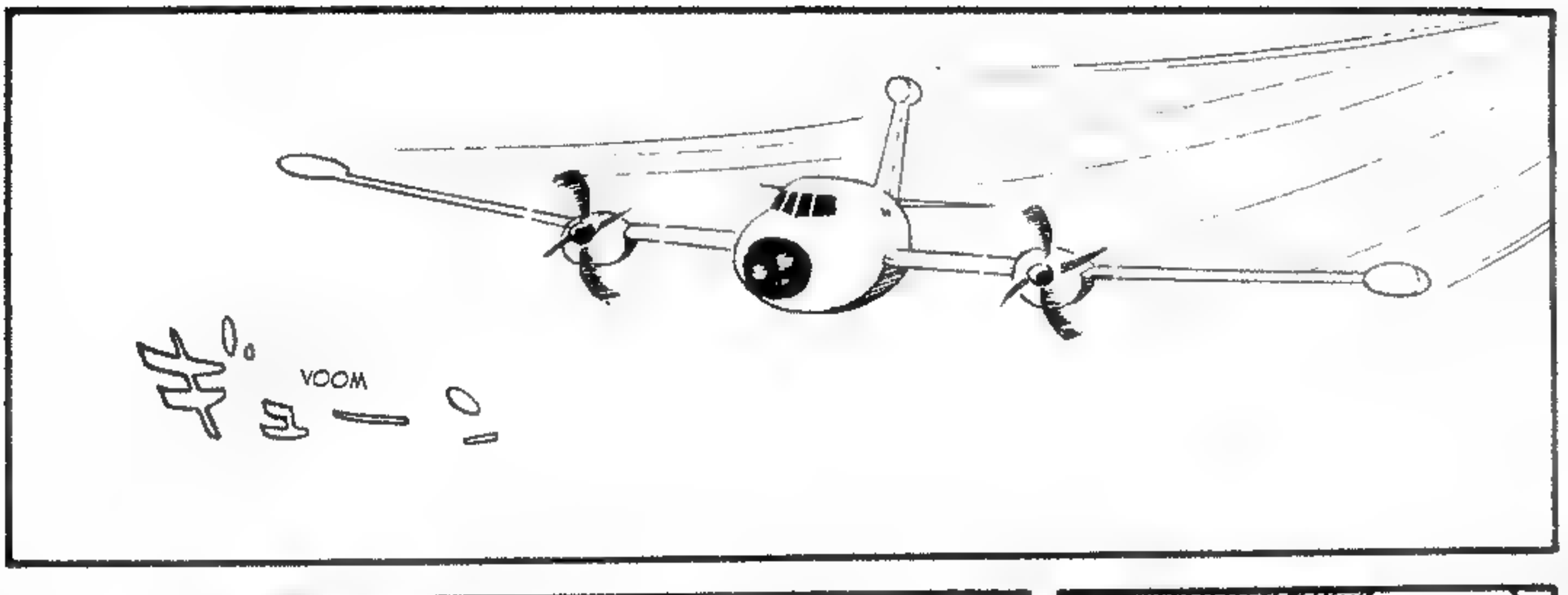
Are these
the pages of
the twentieth
century?

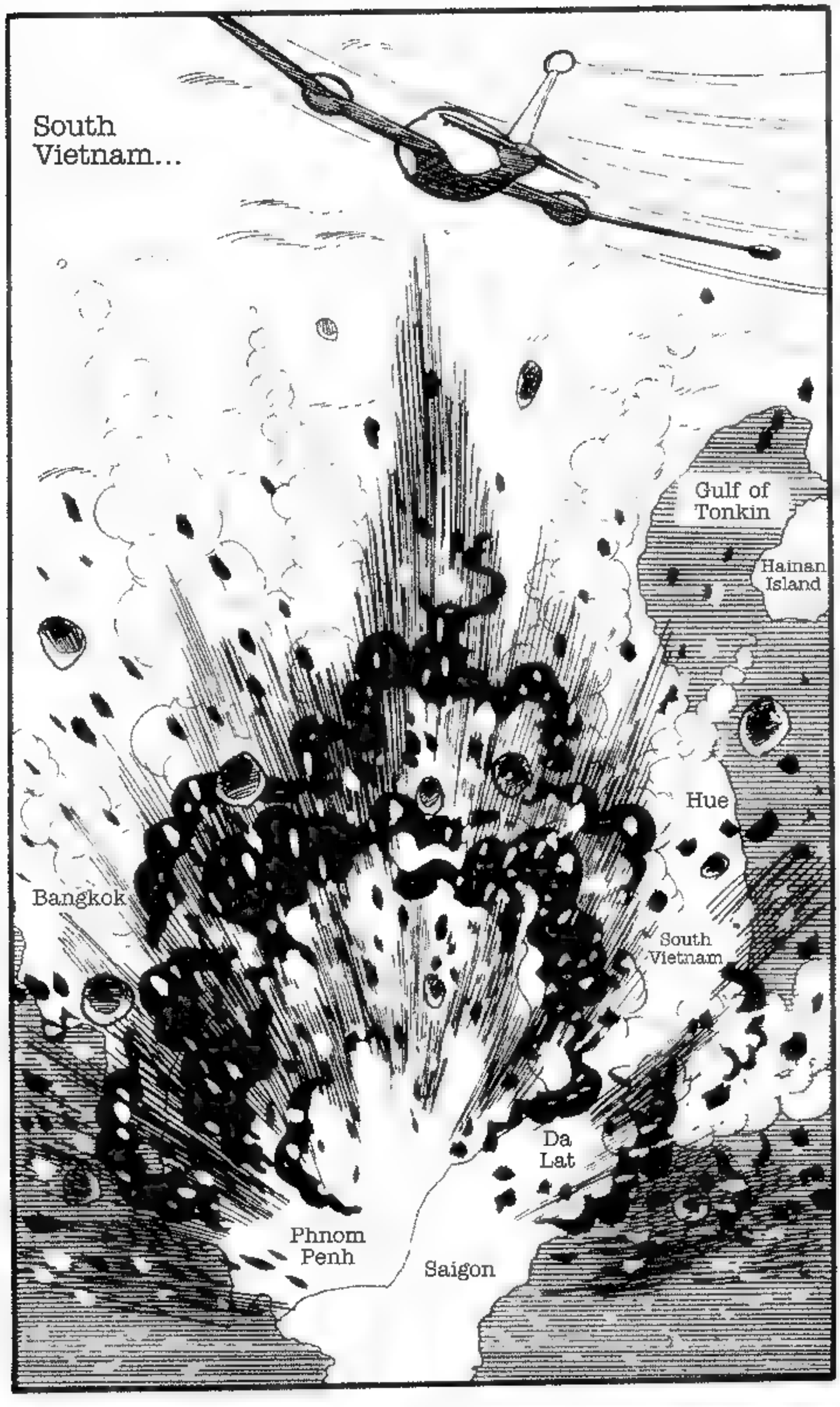
World War I.
World War II.
And then...the final significant conflict.

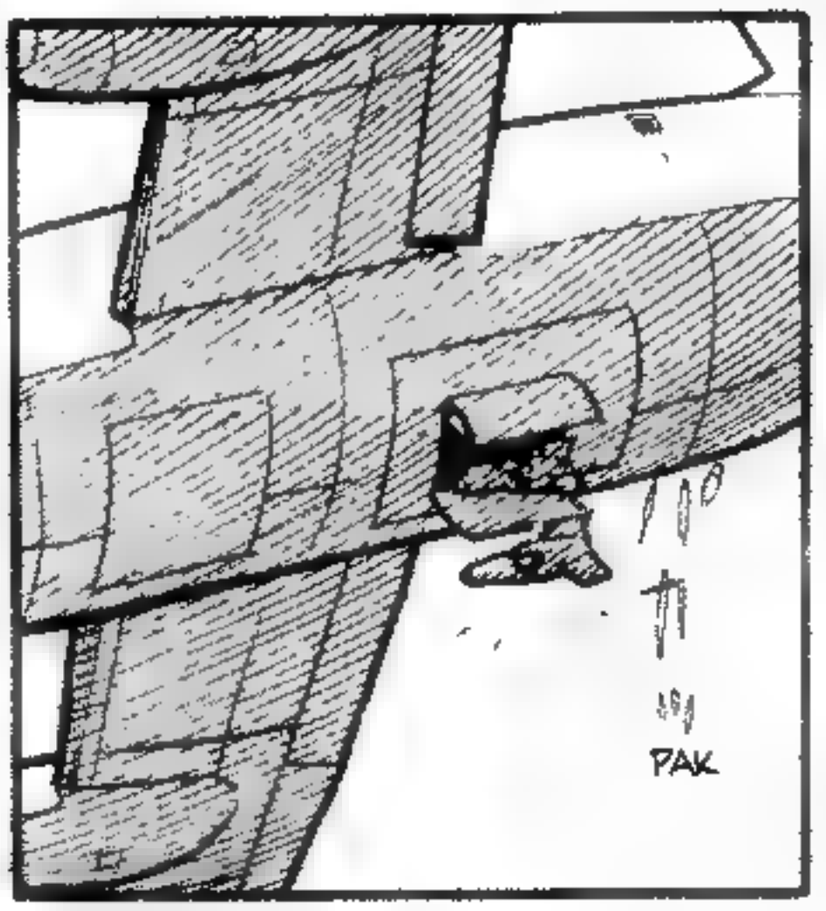





IMAGES: THE HISTORY OF THE
WORLD, A DAY MIRROR BOOK


VOOM


South
Vietnam...
Gulf of
Tonkin
Hainan
Island
Hue
Bangkok
South
Vietnam
Da
Lat
Phnom
Penh
Saigon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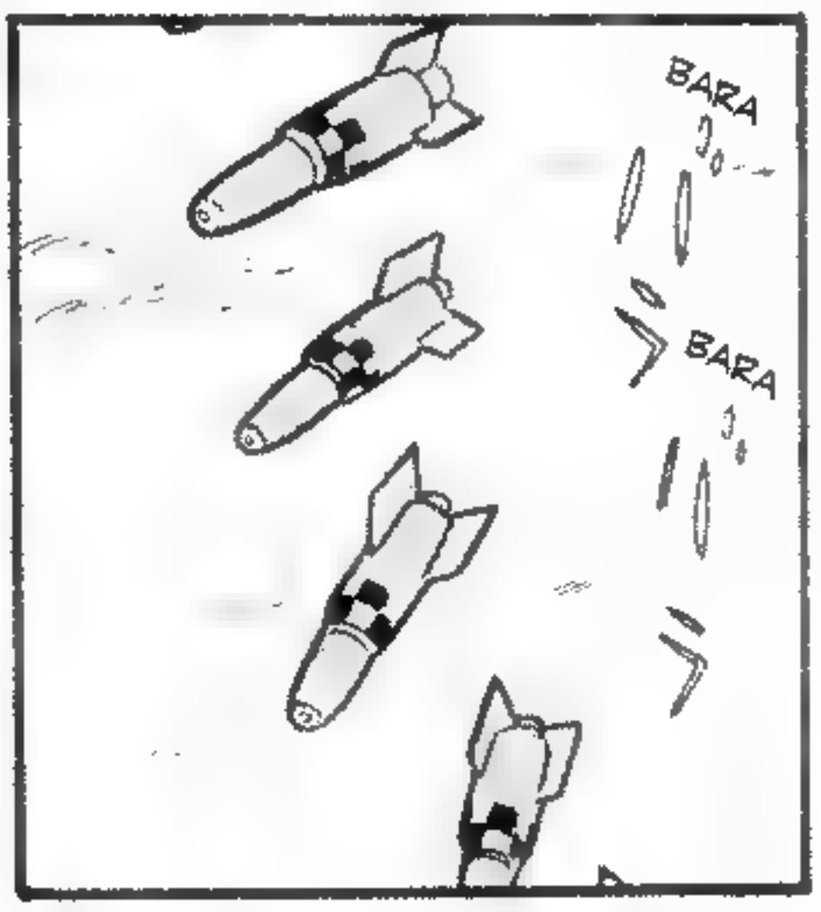
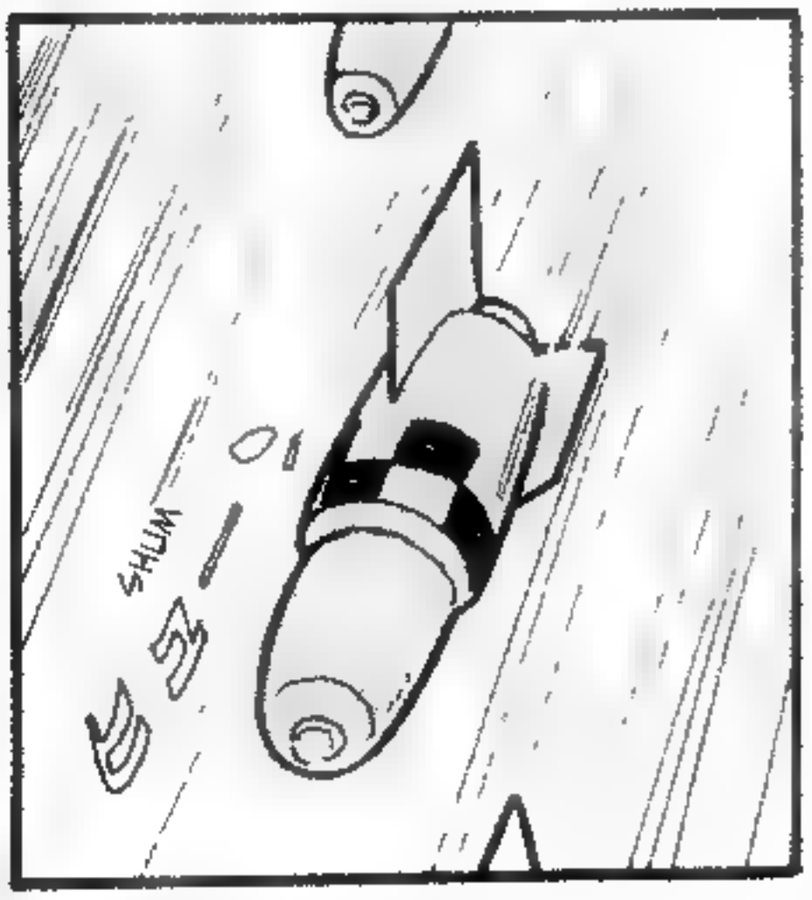
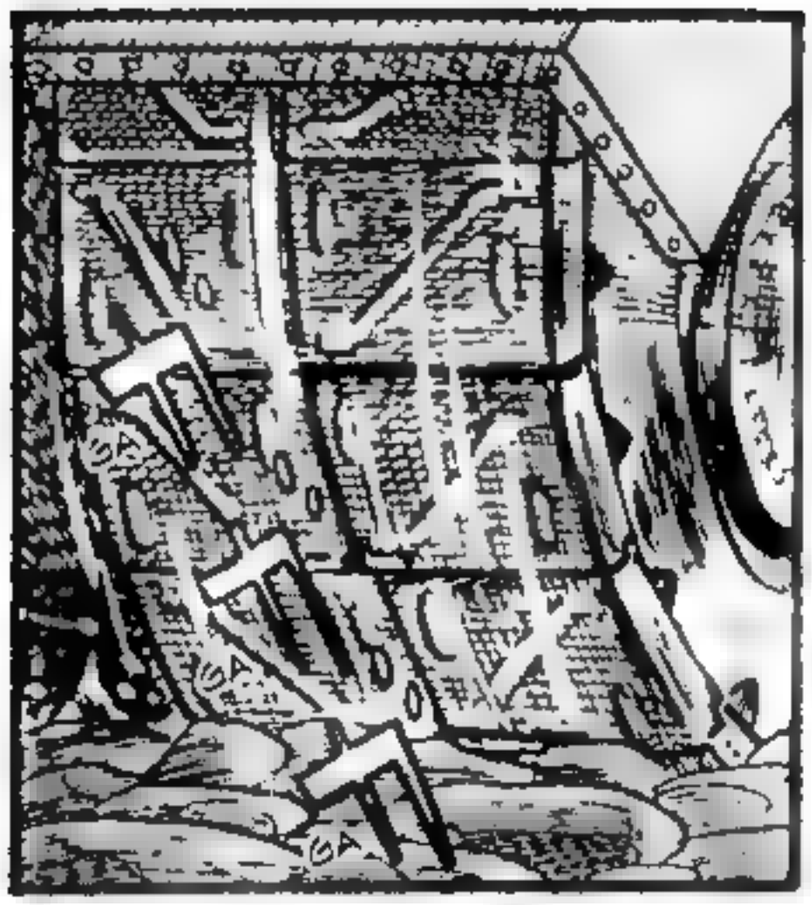
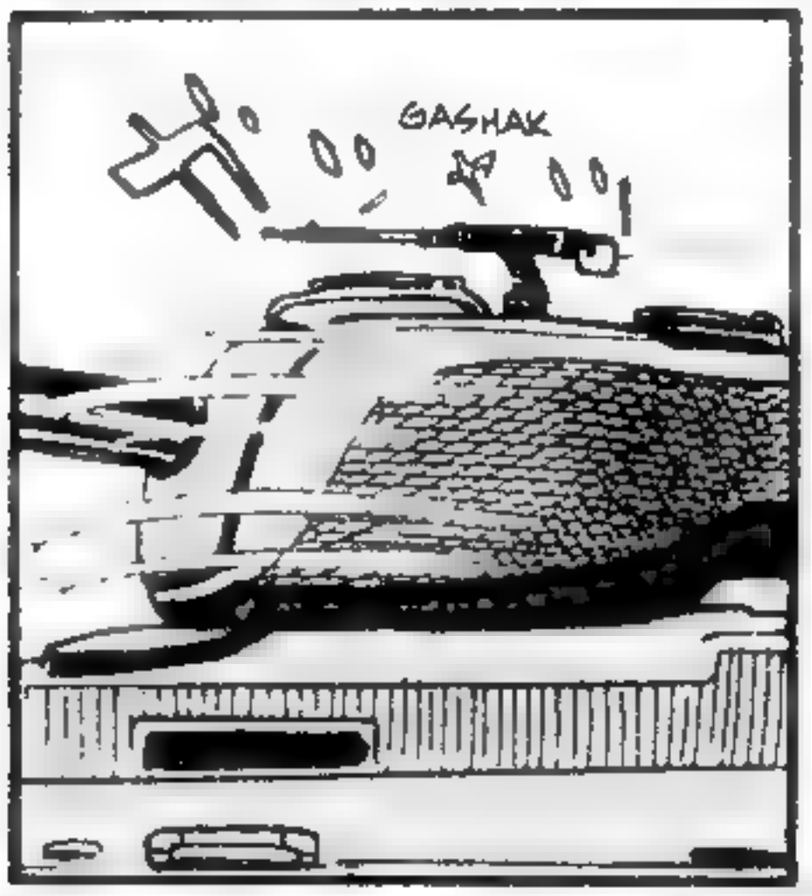

BARA
BARA

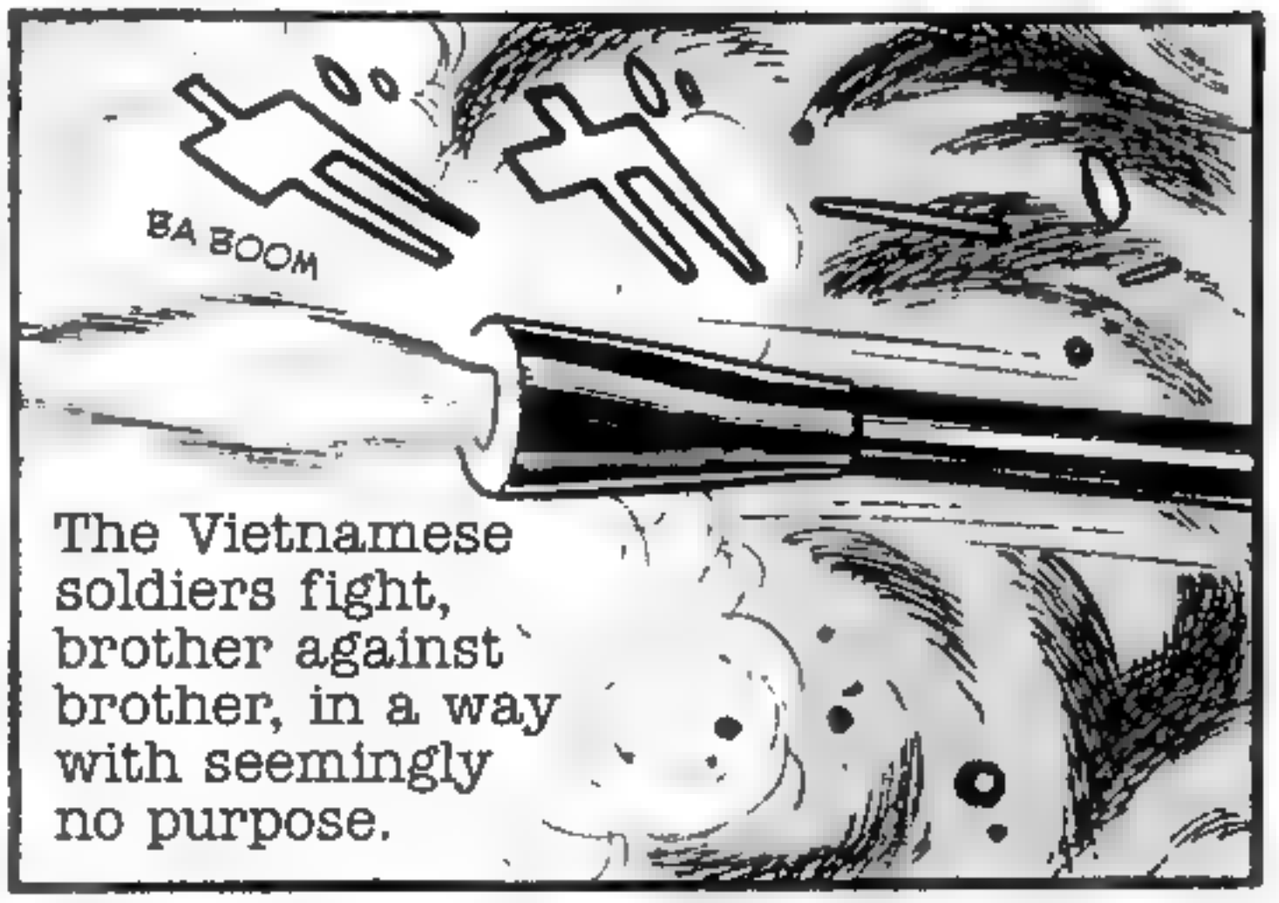

SHUM

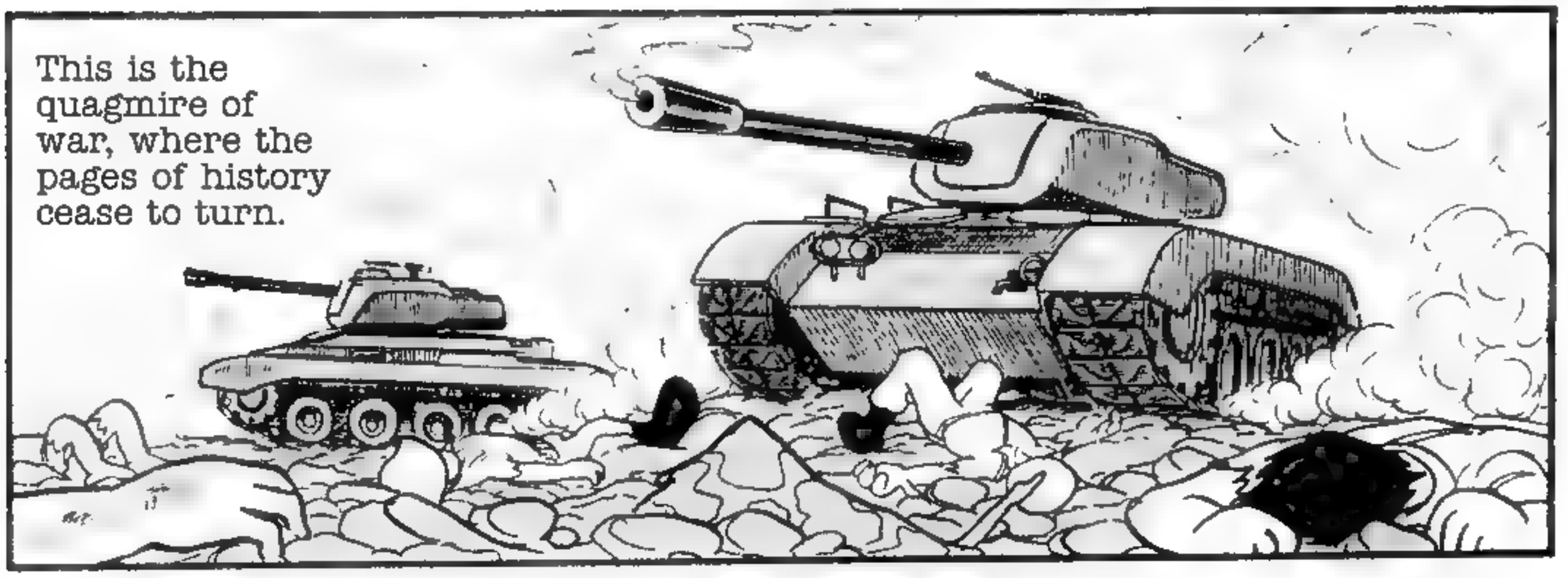



GASHAK

GA
GA
GA
Here, the United States supports government troops in a major resistance against the encroaching Viet Cong forces!

BLAM


BA BOOM
The Vietnamese soldiers fight, brother against brother, in a way with seemingly no purpose.


This is the quagmire of war, where the pages of history cease to turn.

GA

GA

GA

GA

GA

GA

GA

WHA?

GAK

WAH!

BOOM

HUH?

HA HA HA HA.

KLANK

CHAPTER 18
MUD AND BLOOD

In an effort to tip the balance toward the South Vietnamese in their struggle against communist guerrillas, the United States has sent large amounts of weapons and special units to the Vietnam battlefield.

The Viet Cong state that they are a national force fighting only for liberation.

Why can't the Viet Cong be stopped? Why, even with the help of America, can't this paltry organization be put down?

But despite this rationale for war, fighting has escalated steadily since 1960, intensifying into the violent situation that it is today.

I can think of three reasons. For one, the dense jungle battlefields that the Viet Cong have learned to combat on since the days when Vietnam was a French colony is completely foreign terrain to the U.S. forces.

DAMN, WHAT IS HE...?

BADDA

BADDA

BADDA

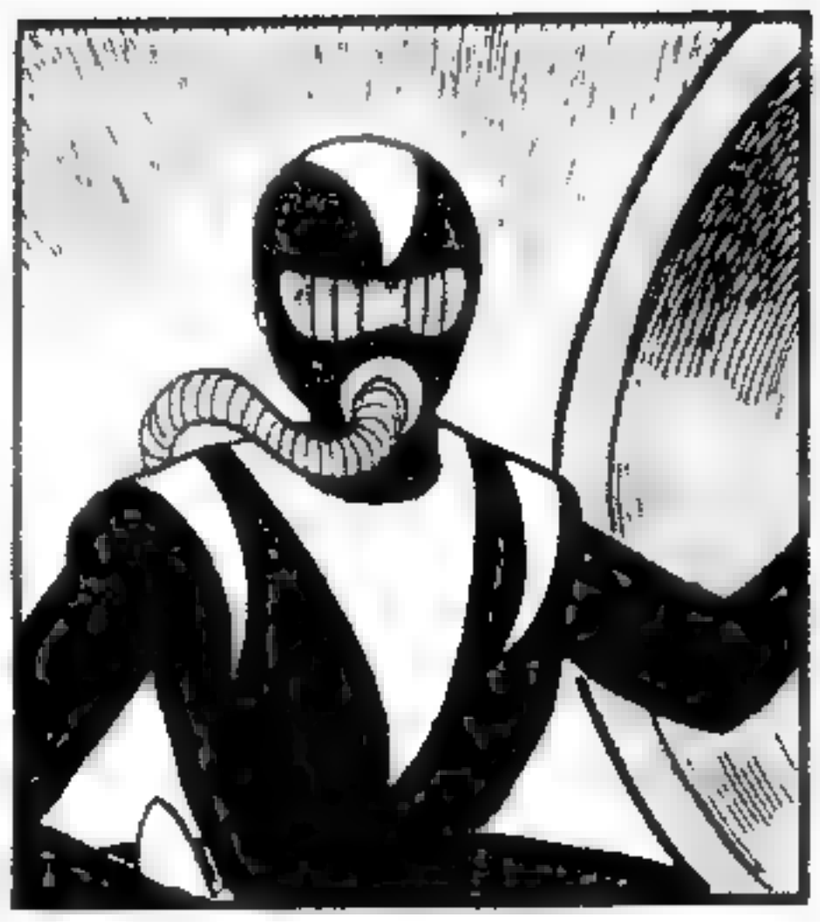
GA

GA

GA

GA

GA



GASHAK

WHAT? I JUST UNLOADED A WHOLE CLIP AT THAT GUY!

KLANK

HA HA HA!

Secondly, the Americans can't distinguish between North and South Vietnamese soldiers. Many Viet Cong cross enemy lines in South Vietnamese uniforms to seize American weapons and carry them back over the border.

BADDA

BADDA

AAAH!

SHUUM

HMM...

AS FOR THE THIRD REASON...

BLAM

KA BOOM

SHU

SHU

PSSH

スポッ

PSSH

スポッ

BOOM

HEH
HEH
HEH.

KACHAK

KACHAK

KACHAK

GACHAN

KACHAK

KACHAK

KACHAK

GA

GA

HEH HEH HEH, GOODBYE.

KACHAK!

GA

GA

GA

GA

GA

GA

GA

GA GA GA

GA GA GA

THEN... WHO IS IT?

IT'S NOT GOVERNMENT ARMY OR VIET CONG!

WHAT IS THAT?

YEAH...

DID YOU SEE THAT?

GA GA

BE CAREFUL, VIET CONG SOLDIERS COULD BE HIDING ANYWHERE.

LET'S GO!

GA GA GA

FOOM

WZZ WZZ WZZ

WHAK DO DO DO

IT'S CREATING ITS OWN PATH THROUGH THE JUNGLE!!

AMAZING.

IT STOPPED!

KUN

KUN

KUN

KUN

GASHAN

ZPOT

ZPOT

STAY ALERT.

IT DETECTED SOMETHING.

GA GA GA

A PITFALL. WE MUST BE GETTING CLOSE TO THE VIET CONG CAMP.

TMP

WAIT, IT STOPPED AGAIN!

TMP

SHH!

OH.

RUSH

RUSH

GASHAN

AREN'T YOU IMPRESSED, GENTLE-MEN?

HEH HEH HEH.

SH

HM

HEH HEH HEH.

HMPH!

COM-MANDER...

HEH.

HELLO, COM-MANDER!

YES.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MACHINE CAN DO?

DID YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT HE TOLD YOU?

YOU SAY YOU DON'T WANT MONEY, NO COMPENSATION!

WHY?!

I PLAN ON GIVING IT TO YOU.

HEH HEH HEH.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING WITH IT?

IS THAT A PROBLEM?

I JUST HAVE SYMPATHY FOR THE WEAK.

HA HA HA.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?

WHY ARE YOU GIVING AWAY A STATE-OF-THE-ART WEAPON?

YOU DON'T NEED ME FOR THAT!

I'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT THIS THING CAN DO ON THE BATTLEFIELD!

WELL, LISTEN!

HEH HEH HEH. YOU REALLY DON'T TRUST ME?

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

W-WAIT! DON'T DO THAT!

...I'LL BRING THIS TANK TO THE GOV-ERNMENT TROOPS!

FINE! SINCE YOU CAN'T TRUST ME...

ANY OTHER ENCAMPMENT WOULD GLADLY ACCEPT MY BRAND NEW WEAPON.

HEH. YOU'RE SO STUBBORN!

SO, IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT?

BUT...YOU ROLL IN HERE AND SIMPLY WANT TO GIVE US A WEAPON?

...SO YOU CAN'T BE A GOVERNMENT SPY...

I DON'T GET IT. ONE OF MY SCOUTS TOLD ME YOU TOOK OUT A UNIT OF GOVERNMENT TROOPS...

HERE'RE THE BLUEPRINTS!

HEH HEH HEH. EXCELLENT!

OF COURSE, WE'LL GLADLY TAKE IT.

OHHH.

M04 Model Combat Vehicle

Black Monster

Schematic <Second Generation Product>

Hi-Grade Stainless Steel

Super Anti-tank Gun

Operation Room

Retractable Hatch

Monster electromagnetic saw (makes cogs spin in and out center axis)

TV camera

surface-to-air missile

Nighttime infrared light (a kind of light that can't be seen by human eyes)

compact nuclear power engine

High-grade stainless steel

mine detecting radar

All terrain caterpillar (suitable for rough roads and can also easily change directions)

foldable leg (used for going in and out of holes)

monster drill (used to hide underground, dig trenches, and so on)

Monster suction cup legs (climbs cliffs using suckers)

...BLACK GHOST AGENTS!!

THOSE GUYS MUST BE...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

RSSH

RSSH

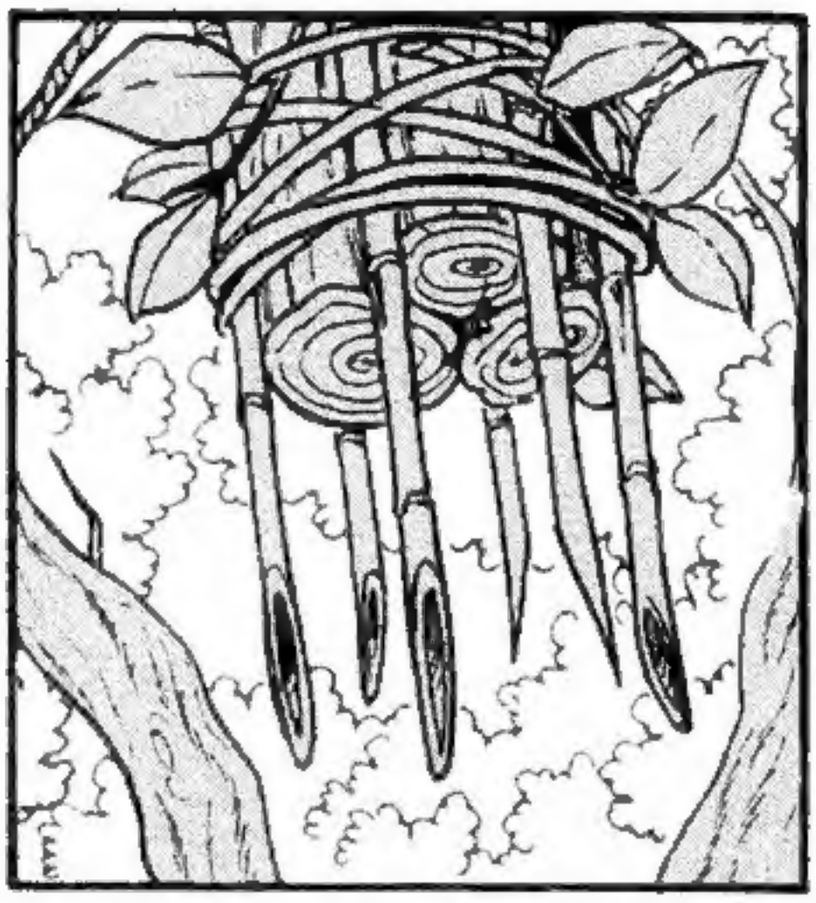
So the Viet Cong has been holding back both South Vietnamese and American troops because they have been receiving arms from the Black Ghost behind them!

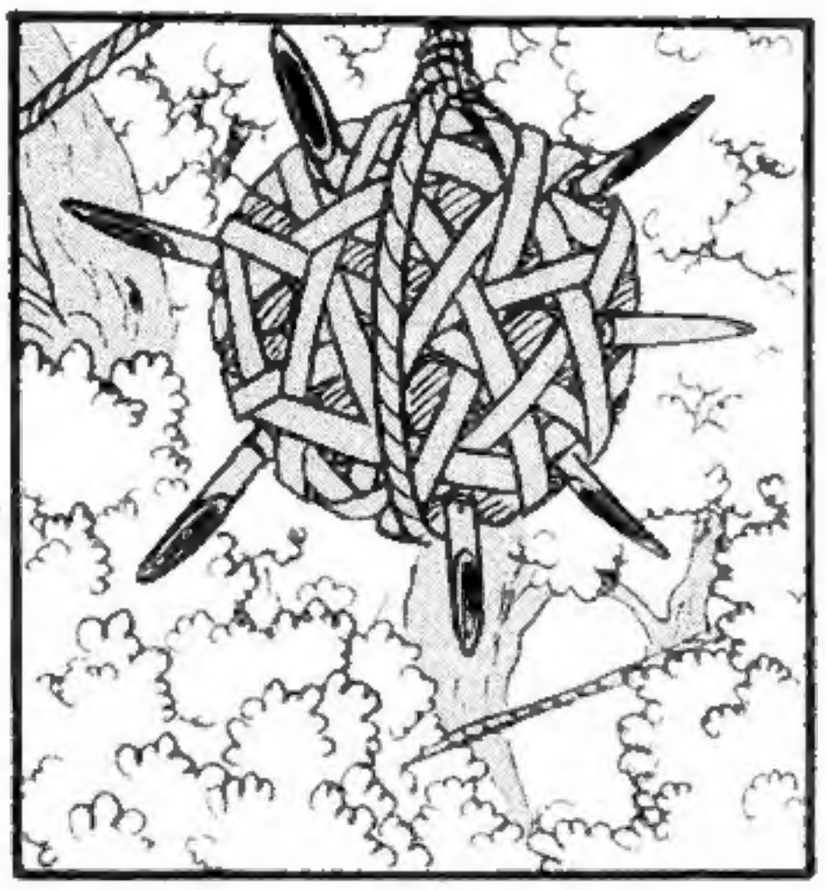
AND ONE JUST PRESENTED ITSELF!

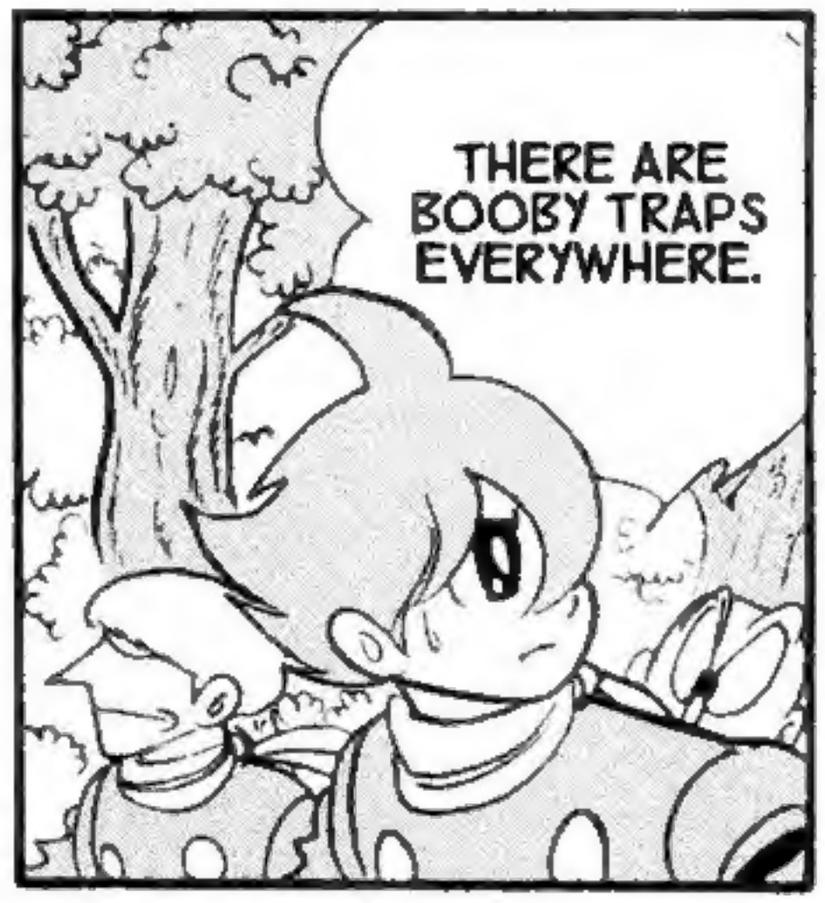
WE STRIKE AT THE BLACK GHOST WHENEVER WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY.

YOU KNOW HOW I DO THINGS!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?







TO BE CONTINUED IN CYBORG 009 VOLUME 5